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Families are unprepared 'when the time comes'

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CRUCIAL WIN

Delhi Capitals puts it past Rajasthan Royals

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NEARBY

Fee revision for govt. PU colleges unlikely this year

BENGALURU
Though the Department of School Education (Pre-University) has submitted a proposal to revise fees for PU courses in government colleges, a revision is very unlikely for the academic year 2024-25, sources said. The department had in January 2024 submitted a proposal to revise the fees by at least 20-30%. » Page 3

Ambulance staff put off protest plan

BENGALURU
Following an assurance by Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao and Health Commissioner Randeep D. that their demand for doing away with zonal classification for payment of wages would be discussed after the process of the Lok Sabha election is completed, the employees of the 108 Arogya Kavacha emergency service have put off their plan to protest till then. » Page 3

OPPORTUNITIES » PAGE 7

Largely peaceful Phase 3 records over 64% polling

Sporadic incidents of violence reported in West Bengal, Maharashtra; 93 constituencies in 11 States and Union Territories go to the polls; Modi votes in home State Gujarat; four more phases to go

Mallikarjun Kharge and wife Radhabai Kharge after casting vote at Kalaburagi in Karnataka on Tuesday; (right) Narendra Modi, along with Amit Shah, poses for pictures after casting his vote in Ranip, Ahmedabad. ANI, VIJAY SONEJI

A. M. Jigeesh
NEW DELHI

At least 64.45% of the electorate in 93 constituencies cast their votes on Tuesday in the third phase of the Lok Sabha election, which has now crossed the halfway mark, with voting complete in 282 of 543 seats.

Apart from sporadic incidents of violence in West Bengal and Maharashtra, the voting was largely peaceful.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah were among the voters in this phase, with the latter also in the fray.

Though the polling was only till 6 p.m., voters could still be seen queueing at many polling stations, the Election Commission said in a statement. "Voters from across 11 States/UTs participated enthusiastically to cast their vote at their polling stations, braving hot weather conditions in some areas," it added.

The remaining four phases will take place between May 13 and June 1.

Till 11.30 p.m., a 59.46% voter turnout was registered in Gujarat, where all of the State's 26 Lok Sabha seats were in play, except Surat where the BJP candidate won unopposed.

Of the 265 candidates in the fray, heavyweights included three Union Cabinet Ministers – Mr. Shah, Mansukh Mandaviya and Parshottam Rupala – and one Minister of State Devusinh Chauhan.

Mr. Modi and Mr. Shah cast their votes in the Ranip and Naranpura booths, respectively, with the Prime Minister also urging people to cast their ballots.

The four seats that went to the polls in West Bengal recorded a turnout of 76.03%.

Though the polling was largely peaceful, there were instances where the Congress-supported Left Front candidate Mohammad Salim, contesting from Murshidabad, came face-to-face with Trinamool Congress supporters.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

Karnataka records 70.41% turnout in the final phase

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The voter turnout in the second and final of the two-phase Lok Sabha polls in Karnataka on Tuesday, which sealed the fate of 227 candidates, stood at 70.41%, higher than the 68.96% recorded in 2019 in these 14 seats. Chikkodi had the highest turnout with 76.99%.

The constituencies that went to polls in the second phase are mostly in the northern belt of the State, covering the entire Kalyana Karnataka and Kittur Karnataka regions, a couple of central districts and coastal Uttara Kannada.

Chikkodi on top

While Chikkodi had the highest turnout, 76.99%, Kalaburgi had the lowest, 61.73%. Manoj Kumar Meena, Chief Electoral Officer for Karnataka, said the voting percentage is likely to increase further after final reports from all polling stations are obtained.

In terms of turnout, Chikkodi was followed by Haveri (76.78%), Davangere (76.23%), Shivamogga (76.05%), Dharwad (72.53%), Uttara Kannada (73.52%) and Ballari (72.35%).

Four constituencies recorded a turnout above 75%, and five recorded a turnout above 70%. Kalaburagi, Raichur, Bidar, and Vijayapura recorded less than 65% turnout.

An elderly voter shows her ink-marked finger after casting her vote for the third phase of the Lok Sabha elections on Tuesday. ANI

In key constituencies

The three constituencies in the final phase where the turnout has been above 75% are key parliamentary segments that are witnessing an interesting battle.

Chikkodi, the only unreserved Lok Sabha seat in Karnataka where a candidate belonging to a Scheduled Tribe is pitted against a Lingayat leader, is seeing a clash between Minister Satish Jarkiholi's daughter, Priyanka Jarkiholi and Annasaheb Jolle of the BJP, who is seeking re-election. This constituency had recorded the second highest turnout at 75.62% in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls after Shivamogga, which had seen a turnout of 76.58% then.

Haveri is seeing a battle with former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, who is attempting to enter the Parliament as a BJP candidate. He is pitted against Anandswamy Gaddadeveramath of the Congress.

Davangere is witnessing a "battle of wives" of two influential leaders from rival families in the district. The BJP has fielded incumbent MP G.M. Siddeshwar's wife, Gayatri Siddeshwar. She is being challenged by Prabha Mallikarjun, wife of district in-charge Minister S.S. Mallikarjun. This constituency is set to create history, as whoever among these two wins, Davangere will get its first woman member of Parliament.

Shivamogga, which is witnessing an interesting contest in the current Lok Sabha elections, has a former BJP Minister, K.S. Eshwarappa, in the fray as an independent candidate apart from BJP's B.Y. Raghavendra and Congress' Geetha Shivarajkumar.

Meanwhile, the bypoll to Surpur Assembly constituency on Tuesday saw a 73% turnout.

MORE REPORTS ON » PAGE 4

Interpol issues Blue Corner Notice against Prajwal Revanna

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Interpol issued on Tuesday a Blue Corner Notice against "absconding" Hassan JD(S) MP Prajwal Revanna, accused of multiple instances of sexual abuse.

This will help the Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the case to locate Prajwal Revanna. He flew to Germany from Bengaluru on April 27 using his diplomatic passport.

Location not known

His whereabouts are currently not known, amid reports that he later flew to Dubai or Hungary. The SIT had asked the Central Bureau of Investigation, the liaison authority with Interpol in India, to get Interpol to issue this notice three days ago.

Prajwal Revanna

On Tuesday, it was issued to all 196 member countries of Interpol.

A Blue Corner Notice is issued to "collect additional information about a person's identity, location, or activities in relation to a criminal investigation".

This notice is different from a Red Corner Notice that is issued to "seek the location and arrest of persons wanted for prosecution or to serve a sentence".

MORE REPORTS ON » PAGE 2

SC defers order on bail plea of Kejriwal

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday decided to mull over the question of granting interim bail to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to enable him to campaign as an Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader for the ongoing Lok Sabha election.

The Directorate of Enforcement (ED) objected, saying that bail for a "criminal" politician to canvas votes was hardly a fundamental right. For the "real *aam aadmi*", it would be a luxury, the ED said.

The day-long hearing wound up without an order on the question of interim bail.

A Bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta said it may tentatively list the case on May 9, as the next week would be a tight squeeze, being the last week before the court closed for a nearly two-month-long summer holiday.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

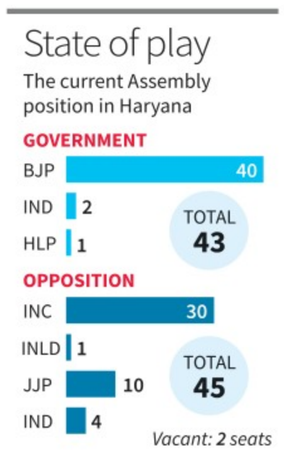
3 Independents pull out, Haryana BJP govt. in crisis

The Hindu Bureau
CHANDIGARH

Three Independent MLAs on Tuesday withdrew their support to the BJP government in Haryana, even as the Congress demanded that Assembly election should be conducted in the State under President's Rule as the government had been reduced to a "minority".

The BJP government, which has the support of two other Independents and Haryana Lokhit Party (HLP) MLA Gopal Kanda, is now two short of the majority mark in the 90-member Assembly which has a current strength of 88. As per the current strength of the House, the majority mark is 45. The Opposition Congress has 30 MLAs, the Jannayak Janta Party (JJP) 10, and the Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) one.

The three Independent MLAs – Sombir Sangwan (Dadri), Randhir Singh Gollen (Pundri), and Dharampal Gonder (Nilokheri) – said they were extending their support to the Congress. They made the announcement in the presence of Haryana Congress president Chaudhary Udaibhan and Leader of the Opposition Bhupinder Singh Hooda.



In March, the Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini-led government won the trust vote with six Independent MLAs and the lone MLA of the HLP extending their support to the BJP. In all, seven Independents had won in the 2019 Assembly election.

In 2019, the BJP emerged as the single-largest party by winning 40 seats, but it fell short of six seats to form the government on its own. The majority mark in the 90-member House is 46. The BJP and the JJP, which secured 10 seats, decided to come together to form the government. The two parties parted ways in March after strained relations.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

Hacker Sriki arrested in a 2017 bitcoin scam case

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Special Investigation Team, probing the alleged bitcoin scam, arrested hacker Srikrishna Ramesh, 29, alias Sriki, on Tuesday in a 2017 case registered in Tumakuru district.

He was arrested from a hotel in Ganganagar, where he had been staying for the past few days. The SIT will seek his police custody to conduct further interrogation.

An SIT press note said Sriki was hiding the addresses of crypto wallets in his laptop. The experts conducted a scientific analysis and found the wallet's address.

A senior police officer said the SIT would investigate the money trail.

Sriki is also accused in several other cases, including cheating and hacking an e-procurement website.

The FIR alleges that he hacked Unocoin Technologies Private Limited, a Bitcoin exchange and stole about 60 bitcoins. The complaint was filed by Harish B.V., the company's director.

At the time of the crime, one bitcoin was valued at ₹1,67,481, and the value of the stolen coins stood at ₹1.14 crore.

Israeli forces send tanks to Rafah, seize crossing

Associated Press
CAIRO

Israeli tanks seized control of Gaza's vital Rafah border crossing on Tuesday as Israel brushed off urgent warnings from close allies and moved into the southern city even as ceasefire negotiations with Hamas remained on a knife's edge.

The UN warned of a potential collapse of the flow of aid to Palestinians from the closure of Rafah and the other main crossing into Gaza, Kerem Shalom, at a time when officials say the northern part of the enclave is already experiencing "full-blown famine".

Lifeline lost: Smoke rises after an Israeli strike as its forces launch a ground and air operation in the eastern part of Rafah. REUTERS

The Israeli foray overnight came after hours of whiplash in the Israel-Hamas war, with the militant group on Monday saying it accepted an Egyptian-Qatari mediated cease-fire proposal. Israel, however, insisted the deal did not meet its core demands.

The incursion appeared to be short of the full-fledged offensive into Rafah that Israel has planned, and it was not immediately known if it would be expanded. The looming operation threatens to widen a rift between Israel and its main backer, the United States, which says it is concerned over the fate of around 1.3 million Palestinians crammed into the city. U.S. President Joe Biden warned Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu again on Monday against launching an invasion of the city after Israel ordered 1,00,000 Palestinians to evacuate from parts of Rafah.

Rafah's Palestinian families fled in a steady stream out of Rafah's eastern neighbourhoods on foot or in vehicles and donkey carts piled with mattresses and supplies. Children watched as parents disassembled tents in the sprawling camps that have filled Rafah for months to move to their next destination – which for many remained uncertain.

HOSTAGE FAMILIES' PLEA » PAGE 14

Bumrah — the premier paceman of his generation

The Indian speedster is leading the bowling charts with 18 wickets at an economy rate of 6.20 in an IPL where 200+ has been the new norm; come T20 World Cup, he will be the lynchpin around whom India's bowling fortunes will revolve

R. Kaushik

R.V. MOORTHY

Ever wondered what it must feel like to return sensational figures of three for 18 in 3.5 overs in a T20 game and still end up on the losing side? To lead the bowling charts with 18 wickets at a ridiculous economy rate of 6.20 in a tournament where 200 has been breached 32 times in 55 matches and still find your team one place off the bottom of the points table? Just ask Jasprit Bumrah.

The pacer supreme has single-handedly kept the stocks of the bowlers flying high. True, there is a logjam behind him in the list of leading wicket-takers in IPL 2024 – Harshal Patel has 17, Varun Chakaravarthy 16, Arshdeep Singh has 15 and so does T. Natarajan 15, who briefly had the temerity to snatch the Purple Cap, if only for 24 hours – but no one has quite enthralled and entranced like Bumrah, no one has asked probing questions more consistently, no one has forced batsmen to rethink their aggressive designs ball after excellent ball.

What makes Bumrah so special has been the topic of discussion for nearly a decade now. The natural hyperextension of his right elbow enables him to deliver the ball from a few inches further than anyone else, which makes length-picking extremely difficult. His high-arm action and the ability to produce different deliveries without any discernible change in action place numerous demands on batsmen, even on the flattest of decks. His speed through the air ensures that even on benign surfaces, he can seldom be taken lightly. His magnificent yorker has been dissected in detail and apart from a plethora of slower deliveries, he also possesses a mean bouncer which he uses sparingly, but to great effect.

Bumrah is clearly the premier paceman of his generation, an all-format behemoth who carries his greatness lightly.

Decoding the Bumrah puzzle

One would have thought, given how much information is available these days and how much time batsmen and analysts spend poring over the minutest of details, that the Bumrah puzzle would have been decoded by now. It's not as if batsmen don't know what is coming; it's just that more often than not, even armed with that knowledge, they are caught like rabbits in a headlight, transfixed by the tiny orb of doom homing in on their toes and stumps, descending upon them as if to bruise not just limb but also ego.

Bumrah is one of those rare practitioners of a demanding craft who goes about his business with little fuss or fanfare. Even after six years of Test cricket and eight-plus years at the international level, he carries a ready smile with him, speaking to a sustained, unalloyed enjoyment of the sport. Over after unyielding over in tough conditions might take the joy out of the most positive individuals but Bumrah belongs to that rare breed that still loves the heat of a battle and that accepts without rancour that things won't always go his way, no matter how on-point he is. When he talks, it's as if a nuclear scientist has been asked to address kindergarten students. Much like his bowling, he tries to keep his answers simple, refusing to be drawn into technical analyses as he patiently holds forth on following the processes and not worrying about the outcome. That's become one of the more abused cliches in competitive sport and Bumrah's refuge in that is hardly surprising, but you often tend to overlook that because of the warmth in the heart when he is firing on all cylinders.

Bumrah was the singular difference between the sides during India's Test series against England at home. An outstanding exhibition of reverse swing in England's second innings in the second Test in Visakhapatnam decisively tilted the scales in India's favour. The unplayable reversing yorker that started from well outside off and snuck under Ollie Pope's bat to pluck two stumps out of the ground has to be one of the balls of the year. Pope had catalysed England's fightback after conceding a 190-run deficit in the first Test in Hyderabad with a magical 196 to set himself up as the big fish for the rest of the series. Bumrah fired a telling salvo, a clear statement – 'You might have won the battle, but no way are you winning the war'. Bumrah likes making those statements, you know. But with the ball. Only with the ball.

Test cricket is a more forgiving format, even in the Bazball era, for the bowling fraternity. There is time to regroup, batsmen don't come hard all the while and, when there is some help for the bowlers, an even contest between bat and ball unfolds occasionally. Even in the five-day game, bowlers' lament is that the odds are stacked against them. Imagine their plight, then, when it comes to the T20 version where, it would seem, their only role is to run in and hope that the ball only goes for four, not six.

Too much of a good thing

A recent opinion poll comprehensively supported the long-held assumption that T20 audiences would rather watch the ball sail deep into the stands on a regular basis than a low-scoring thriller. One would have thought the monotony of the ball flying long and far would have sated the appetite for unchecked ball-bashing, but apparently you can actually have too much of a good thing. Because that's what people want, that's what they will get – hence the pancake decks that facilitate hitting through the line without fear or favour, without respect for pedigree or reputation. Mitchell Starc, one of the premier swing exponents of all time, came into the IPL on the back of the heftiest pay cheque in the tournament's history, at ₹ 24.75 crore. In his first two games for Kolkata Knight Riders, he had figures of none for 100 from eight overs.

Against this depressing (for bowlers only) backdrop, Bumrah has stood out like a beacon. Lifting the pall of gloom that has descended over the bowling fraternity, he has returned the belief. He has shown the way, he has reiterated that class will always out, no matter the format, the small boundaries, the big bats, the bigger batsmen. But then again, he is Bumrah, right? How do mere mortals go where he has gone? Without his skillsets, his versatility, his equanimity and his supreme command of his craft, how do they even start to think wickets when batsmen are charging at them, impervious to whether the ball is coming at them at 120 kmph or 150?

And that's why Bumrah is Bumrah. That's why he is what he his – the first, but not among equals because, truth to tell, there are no equals for Bumrah at the current time. Occasionally, some others will have a good run, a few good games on the trot, even maybe in more than one format. But eventually, they will cop punishment. They will be taken to the cleaners. They will be put in their place, their audacity in trying to gatecrash the batsmen's party buried in a heap of misery and destruction. But not Bumrah.

If he gets smashed – he will too, make no mistake – Bumrah will spring back immediately, like the Indian rubber man. He will shrug off one expensive over, one forgettable match, and return stronger, more lethal, more potent, more dangerous. As he has done in this IPL.

Jake Fraser-McGurk took 18 off his first over in Delhi Capitals' showdown against Mumbai Indians; Bumrah finished with one for 35 in that game. That's also the exact number of runs he conceded in eight overs combined in his next two outings. Why? Because that's how good he is.

MI is all but out of the running for a playoff berth, having lost eight of 12 games in Hardik Pandya's first season as its captain. But that will matter little to Bumrah. He has two more matches, a maximum of eight overs, before he can put his feet up, deservedly, and start looking ahead to the T20 World Cup in the US and the Caribbean. Not for the first time, he will be the lynchpin around whom India's bowling fortunes will revolve. Even if, as expected, the pitches in the Americas play low and slow and favour the spinners more, Bumrah won't be a non-factor. Not by a long way. Bumrah? Non-factor? Same breath? Crazy, right?

Bumrah belongs to that generation of Indian cricketers who haven't won a global title for 11 years now. India's last meaningful silverware came at the 2013 Champions Trophy in England, when Bumrah was still wheeling away in various Gujarat outposts, yet to catch MI talent scout John Wright's eye. Even more than his captain Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli, who were both in that Champions Trophy-winning side and who both are World Cup winners, Bumrah will be determined to not merely stamp his class on the T20 World Cup but also carry his side to the Promised Land. He knows better than anyone else that time isn't a fast bowler's ally, so why wait any longer for a shot at glory? Why not have a go now? Why? Because Bumrah can, that's why.

THE GIST

- The natural hyperextension of Bumrah's right elbow, high-arm action and the ability to produce different deliveries without any discernible change in action make him special
- Bumrah's unplayable reversing yorker that started from well outside off and snuck under Ollie Pope's bat in the Test series against England has to be one of the balls of the year
- After Jake Fraser-McGurk took 18 off his first over in Delhi Capitals' showdown against Mumbai Indians, Bumrah conceded just 35 runs in the next two games after that

EDUCATION HUB

A Business Initiative

Alliance University Celebrates Labour Day with the "Education for All, Access to All" Initiative, Engaging Civic Workers

Alliance University, along with the Alliance University Alumni Association, Alliance CSR, and the Law Clinic, celebrated Labour Day with civic workers at the Anekal Municipal Hall to raise legal awareness among them. Dr. Viswanathaiah Matam, Registrar at Alliance University, referred to the role of civic workers as the backbone of the country. He called for recognizing their contributions and urged everyone to use the resources at the Alliance University Law Clinic. Dr. Matam also announced plans for an awareness program for civic workers in Anekal Taluk on behalf of Alliance University. Focusing on equity, the "Education for All, Access to All" program, designed by the CSR department of Alliance University, aims to provide quality education to economically disadvantaged students. The university seeks to accommodate underprivileged students with high academic achievement and family incomes below ?3 lakh. The public is encouraged to submit applications by May 30, 2024. Anekal Municipality Health Inspector Rajasekhar acknowledged the celebration of Labour Day with civic workers as commendable. The event was attended by Ms. Surekha Shetty, Registrar General of Alliance University, Prof. Prakash Kaniwe of Alliance Law College, Ms. Pavithra, an Alliance Alumni, Mr. Sanath Shenava, and Mr. Galav Gowda.

Anaadyanta-2024, the annual techno-cultural fest at Nitte Meenakshi Institute of Technology, Bengaluru

B. Dayananda, Commissioner of Police, Bengaluru City inaugurated the fest and appreciated the theme of Anaadyanta - 'City of Dreams' and emphasised to build the city on ethical principles and eco-friendly technology. Sapthami Gowda, Famous Cine Actress, was the Guest of Honor. She said that students should develop respect towards the teachers as they are the architects of their future. Anaadyanta-2024 created a platform for thousands of students of various Engineering colleges across India, to showcase their technical and artistic talents. In addition to the technical events, Street Plays, Dance, Fashion Show, Quiz etc were also arranged to exhibit their artistic skills. In the beginning, Dr. H.C. Nagaraj, Principal, NMIT, welcomed the gathering and briefed the purpose of techno-cultural fest. Prof. Sandeep Shastri, Director (Academics)-Nitte Education Trust, presided over the function. Rohit Punja, Administrator, Nitte Education Trust; Dr. V. Sridhar, Dean Academics, NMIT; Faculty Advisors of Anaadyanta-2024 Dr. Nalini N and Prof. J. Sudheer Reddy were present on the occasion.

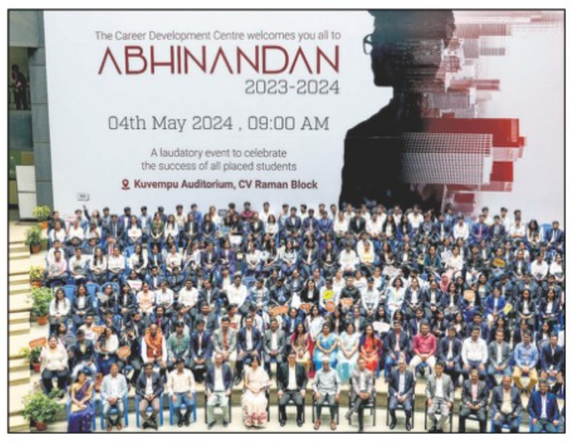
St Joseph's Institute of Management marks 27th Convocation

Recently St. Joseph's Institute of Management (SJIM) marked its 27th Convocation Day with fervor and pride at its Bangalore campus. The event saw 177 students conferred with the prestigious PG Diploma in Management, completing SJIM's esteemed two-year AICTE-approved, NBA-accredited, NIRF-ranked program. Mr. Viswanath PS, MD & CEO of Randstad India, delivered an inspiring address, urging students to seize the abundant career opportunities in India's dynamic business landscape. The ceremony honored academic excellence, with Dibya Ranjan Das, Roshni Bernard, and Lt. Col. K Damodaran recognized as top achievers. SJIM's Director, Rev. Dr. Manoj D'Souza SJ, highlighted the program's growth, including the addition of a business analytics specialization and notable achievements in placements. Rev. Fr. Dionysius Vaz SJ, CM of SJIM Governing Council, emphasized the institution's commitment to academic excellence and societal welfare.

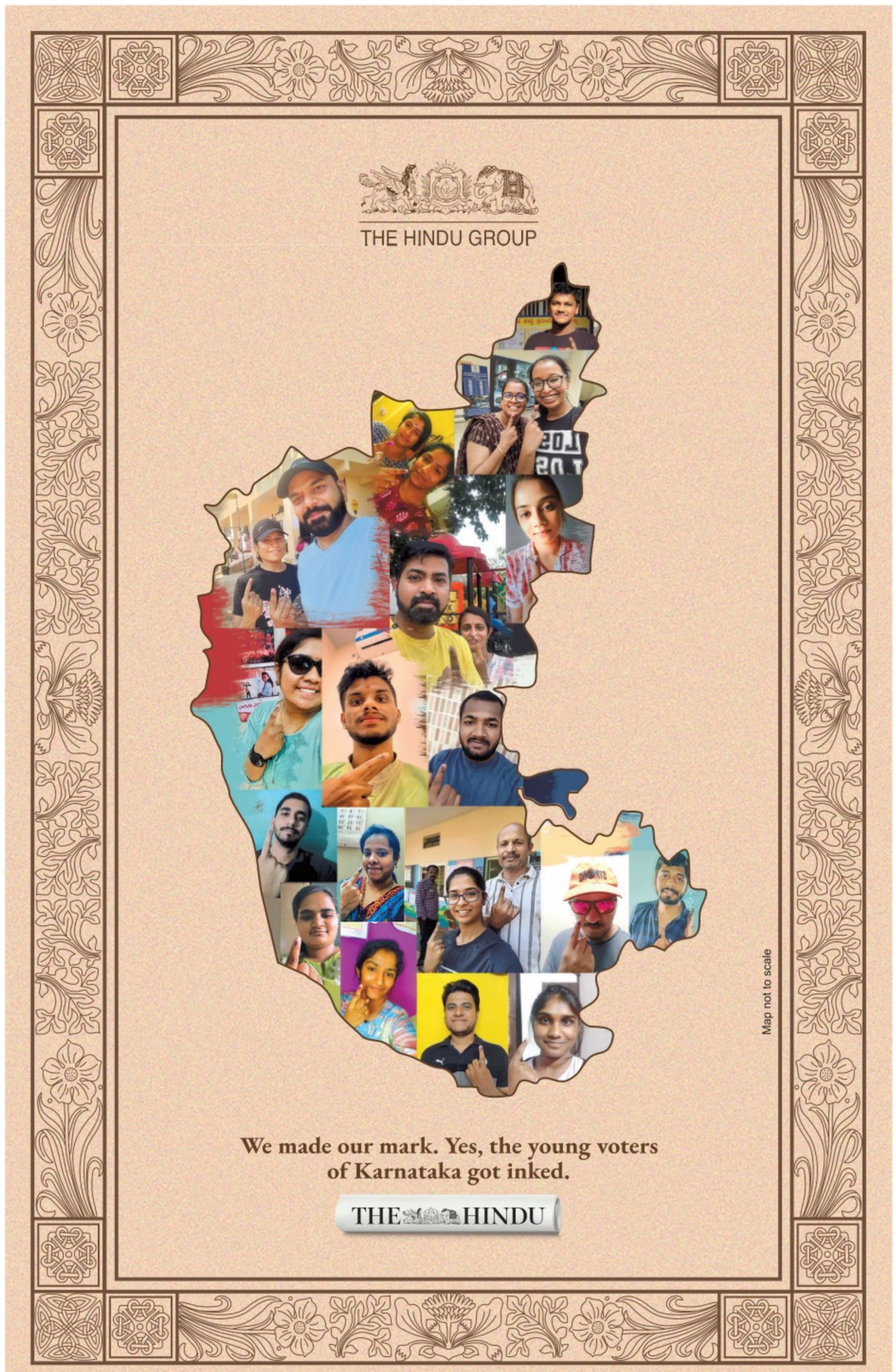
Seshadripuram College congratulates Student Preetham

Mr Wooday P krishna, Secretary and Mr G K Manjunath congratulates II PUC Science student Preetham R P on scoring 599 out of 600 after the revaluation and got first place at State Level held in the month of March 2024. He has got 4 extra marks in English Paper after the result of Revaluation.

Remarkable Placement Season at REVA Abhinandan 2024 organised at REVA University



Recently Premier Educational Institution, REVA University, organised Abhinandan 2024 at its campus. Abhinandhan 2024 is a laudatory ceremony organised by the Career Development Centre at REVA University, honouring the efforts of students who have secured coveted positions in renowned companies. This year, the Career Development Centre has surpassed all expectations by achieving a remarkable placement record, setting a new benchmark for the university. Exceeding expectations, over 3006 students have clinched offers from prestigious firms and companies, a testament to the dedication and quality of education at REVA University. The Career Development Centre's commitment to its motto, "We Promise, We Deliver," has once again been affirmed through this outstanding achievement. As the placement drive continues, the prospect of even more success looms on the horizon. Dr. P. Shyama Raju, the esteemed Chancellor of REVA University, expressed his pride and delight in witnessing the remarkable accomplishments of his students year after year. Highlighting the pivotal role played by external stakeholders, the Chancellor extended gratitude to all the recruiters for flagging REVA for their talent hunt, recognizing their crucial contribution to the university's success.



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SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY G20
E-Tender Notice No: B/TRD.2024-25/02
Dated : 02-05-2024
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following work.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Augmentation of Bengaluru / Santoshpur by provision of BMs for improving sectioning of Bengaluru Yard.	Rs. 1,08,01,564.94

Last date for submission of bids: Upto 15:00 Hrs on 22-05-2024
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer / Traction Distribution Bengaluru
PUB/54/AAS/PRB/SWR/2024-25
South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

PUBLIC NOTICE
My client had negotiated to purchase the Immovable Property from **(1) Mrs. KANCHAN BAI,** W/o. Mr. M. Dharamchand Devada, **(2) Mrs. SUSHEELA BAI (alias) SUSHILA NAHAR)**, W/o. Mr. Gautamchand Nahar, and **(3) Mrs. HEMALATHA,** W/o. Mr. G. M. Prakash Chand Bohra, bearing BDA allotted / Now BBMP Vacant **Site No.8/2912/11, 1st Stage,1st Block, Bangalore , H. B. R. Layout, BBMP ward No.24 (HBR)** [earlier BDA Site No.11, **[11/2912/BDA],** 1st Phase, 1st Block, Hennur Bellary Road Layout, Bangalore], measuring East to West : 80 Feet, North to South : 50 Feet, total site area **4000 Square Feet,** Bounded on the : **East by :** Site No.16; **West by :** Road; **North by :** Site No.12 ; **South by :** Site No.10.
If any person/s are having any objections or claims in respect of the above sale the same be lodged with documentary proof within **7 days** from today failing which our client will get the Sale Deed registered and it shall be deemed there are no claims of any nature whatsoever.
K.M.A.PERES, VIREN MICHAEL PERES, Advocates, No.46/1-1, Wheeler Road, Bangalore- 560005, Mobile: 9845000414. E-mail. peresoffice@gmail.com

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY G20
E-Tender Notice No: 10/SBC/24 of 30.04.2024
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following work.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Assistant Divisional Engineer/Bengaluru section: Supply of drinking water to Railway stations and staff quarters in Bengaluru East, Baiyyappanahalli, Sir M Visvesvaraya Terminal, Krishnarajapuram, Diesel Shed Krishnarajapuram, Hoodi Halt, Satellite goods terminal, Whitefield, Devanagonthi and Malur station in Assistant Divisional Engineer / Bengaluru sub division for a period of one year.	Rs. 2,55,63,740/-

Last date for submission of bids: Upto 15:00 Hrs on 22-05-2024
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Engineer / Co-ordination Bengaluru
PUB/52/AAS/PRB/SWR/2024-25
South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

PUBLIC NOTICE
Our Client intends to purchase the property morefully described in the Schedule mentioned herein below from its owners (1) M.S. Ganeshan, Son of M.K. Srinivasan, (2) M.V. Krishnan, Son of M.S. Venkatachalam, (3) M.S. Gopikrishnan, Son of M.S. Subramaniam, (4) Srinivas Krishnan, Son of M.S. Krishnan and (5) M.S. Srinivasan, Son of S. Sankaran, all residing at No.15, Police Station Road, Basavangudi, Bengaluru - 560 004. Any person having right, title, interest, claim, objections or whatsoever in respect of the Schedule Property may file their objections with documentary proof to the undersigned within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. If no objections are received within the said period, our client will proceed to complete the proposed Sale transaction presuming that above mentioned person is the absolute owner of the Schedule Property and that there are no other Claimants.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing No.15, (Old No.8), Police Station Road, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru, Corporation Division No.29, PID No. 51-10-15, measuring East to West 128 and North to South 50 feet, presently BBMP Ward No.51, Basavanagudi (As per the Tax Paid receipt Ward No.154), along with building consisting of Ground, First and Second Floors with each floor having built-up area of 2900 Square Feet, including all basic amenities and bounded on as follows:
East by : Property bearing No.14; West by : Property bearing No.16; North by : 100 Feet; and South by : Road.
Sanjay H. Sethiya, *Advocate*
Law Square, *Advocates & Solicitors*
Level Two, No.2/1, 3rd Cross, Gandhinagar, Bengaluru - 560 009.
info@lawsquare.in 080 - 41711481
Bengaluru, Date: 07.05.2024

MANONMANIAM SUNDARANAR UNIVERSITY
Abishekapatti, Tirunelveli - 627 012
STATE LEVEL ELIGIBILITY TEST (SET)-2024
Notification No.01/2024
CORRIGENDUM
As per the G.O. (Ms) No.5 Higher Education (H1) Department dated 11.01.2021 & G.O. (Ms) No.163 Higher Education (H1) Department dated 27.08.2021, a relaxation of 5 % marks shall be allowed (From 55% to 50% of the Marks) at the Master's level for the candidates belonging to Scheduled caste (SC)/Scheduled Caste (A)/Scheduled Tribe/ Backward Class (BC)/Most Backward Class (MBC)/ Denotified Communities (DNC) and Differently Abled. Last date for online submission of application for **TNSET Exam 2024** is extended up to **5.00 p.m.** on **15.05.2024.**
For details: **www.musuniv.ac.in**
DIPR/ 476 /DISPLAY/2024
Registrar/Member Secretary TNSET 2024

IN THE COURT OF THE LXXII ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL JUDGE, MAYO HALL, AT BANGALORE
P & SC No. 25031/2024 (CCH-73)
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF LATE MRS. SHANTHA BAI & LATE INDERCHAND SETHIYA
Petitioners : **1. MRS. SUNITHA KUMARI**, W/o Sri. Ramesh Chand, Aged about 62 years,
2. MRS. ANITA RAMESH JAIN, W/o Mr.Sancheti Ramesh Kumar, Aged about 59 years,
3. MRS. R. BABITA, W/o Rajesh Kumar, Aged about 58 years,
4. MR. KAMLESH KUMAR I., S/o Late Inderchand, Aged about 53 years,
5. MR. VISHAL I., S/o Late Inderchand, Aged about 50 years,
All residing at No.17/1, Berlie Street, Shanthinagar, Bangalore - 560025.
-V/s-
Respondent : **Nil**
PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that; a Petition has made to this Court under Section 370 & 372 OF THE INDIAN SUCCESSION ACT for grant of Succession Certificate. Be it known to all that no caveat has been entered and the said petition is posted for hearing on **10.06.2024 at 11.00 A.M**, before the Hon'ble Court of LXXII Additional City Civil and Sessions Judge, Mayo Hall, Bengaluru **(CCH-73)**. Any person/s claiming to have any interest may participate in the proceedings before the grant of Succession Certificate.
SCHEDULE
ITEM No. 1

Sl. No.	Name of the Company	No. of Shares	Distinctive No's
1.	Vinati Organics Limited	1500	1305011 to 1306510
2.	The Industrial Finance Corporation of India Limited	100	245019809 to 245019908
3.	GTN Textiles Limited	14	7626480 to 7626493
4.	GTN Textiles Limited	02	13521721 to 13521722
5.	GTN Textiles Limited	02	13521723 to 13521724
6.	GTN Textiles Limited	10	13521711 to 13521720
7.	Bhawna Steel Cast Limited	100	2626801 to 2626900
8.	Shreyas Shipping Limited	100	17384801 to 17384900
9.	Tata Elxsi Limited	100	32173884 to 32173983
10.	Tata Elxsi (India) Limited	100	14760711 to 14760810
11.	Shreeji Analytical Lab Limited	100	2794401 to 2794500
12.	Bindu Synthetics Ltd.	04	3801187 to 3801190
13.	Bindu Synthetics Ltd.	10	3801177 to 3801186
14.	Ashok Fashions Limited	100	2298301 to 2298400
15.	Herdillia Unimers Limited	100	31511301 to 31511400
16.	Herdillia Unimers Limited	10	848131 to 848140
17.	Sheel International Limited	100	3419401 to 3419500
18.	Shree Vaani Sugars and Industries Limited	100	13198701 to 13198800
19.	Indo American Optics Limited	100	3759101 to 3759200
20.	Ceat Financial Services Limited	100	2352501 to 2352600
21.	Ceat Financial Services Ltd.	100	25330515 to 25330614
22.	Century Sheet Metals (India) Limited	100	2361301 to 2361400
23.	Kaypee Mantex Limited	100	4149861 to 4149960
24.	Videocon Narmada Electronics Ltd.	100	117442901 to 117443000
25.	Videocon Narmada Electronics Ltd.	50	147042533 to 147042582
26.	Videocon Narmada Electronics Ltd.	50	170231107 to 170231156
27.	Videocon Narmada Electronics Ltd.	16	69222915 to 69222930
28.	Videocon Narmada Electronics Ltd.	03	208285086 to 208285088
29.	KBD Sugars & Distilleries Limited	02	1579646 to 1579647
30.	Times Guaranty	100	15659400 to 15659499

ITEM No. 2 : Equity Investment with Angel One under Client ID No.1203320000945585 (S25348)
ITEM No. 3 : Account bearing No.04142010015194 and 04142010014361 in Canara Bank, Langford Town Branch, Bangalore.
Given under my hand and seal of the court on this 27th Day of April 2024.
Advocates for Petitioners:
Sd/- **Hitesh Kumar Jain,** Advocate
HM LEGAL
No.24/10, 1st Floor, Haudin Road, Ulsoor, Bengaluru-560042.
M - 9844372444 E - hitu.80@gmail.com
By Order of the Court DEPUTY REGISTRAR, City Civil Court, Mayo Hall Unit, Bengaluru.

PUBLIC NOTICE
My client is desirous of purchasing the Schedule Property from **M/s. Prasiddhii Ventures,** a Partnership Firm, having Office at No. 9, Commerce House, unit No. 405, 4th Floor, Cunningham Road, Bengaluru - 560052. The said frim has respresented that, it has purchased a Larger Extent of the Land measuring 3.00 Acres 34 Guntas, which isinclusive of the Schedule Property, under a Sale Deed dated 27.05.2022, from Smt. Tamizhselvi, wife of Sri Uttam Kumar Das and others. We are in the process of securitizing the title to the Schedule Property.
Any person/s having any manner of claims/objections for the proposed purchase of the Schedule Property, may lodge their calim/s, objection/s, with the undersigned, with documentary evidence within **Ten (10) days** from the date of this publication. Any claims/objections received thereafter will not be binding on my client and my client will proceed to purchase the schedule property as if there are no claims/objections.
SCHEDULE - PROPERTY
All that piece & parcel of the Dry Agricultural Land bearing Sy. No.72/30, (Old Sy.No.72/2), **measuring 0 Acres 30 Guntas**, situated at Thigalachowdadenahalli Sarjapura - 3 Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru District, and bounded on : **East by :** Kadugodi Main Road, **West by :** Sy. No. 72/1, **North by :** Sy. No. 72/29, and **South by :** Sy. No. 72-31.
For Prasidhii ventures Sd/- Authorised Signatory
Y.S.H. REDDY, Advocate
No. 503, 1st Floor, SaiLeela Suites, 1st Main, 7th Cross, H.M.T. Layout, Parallel to 80 Feet Road, R.T. Nagar, Bengaluru-560032
Mobile : 98863 78570

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, DHARA CYRUS JACKSON, S/O Sri. D. Sridhar Jackson, aged about 30 years, resident of 168/3, 7th Cross, 2nd Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru-560 047, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that all the names **D. CYRUS JACKSON, CYRUS JACKSON DHARA** and **DHARA CYRUS JACKSON** refer to one and the same person who is me. However, for all of my official purposes, I shall mention my name as **DHARA CYRUS JACKSON.** And also, I declare that all the names **D. SRIDHAR JACKSON, SRIDHAR JACKSON DHARA** and **DHARA SRIDHAR JACKSON** refer to one and the same person who is my father. And I hereby state that I have been identified and called by my name **DHARA CYRUS JACKSON** since the date of my Affidavit vide date 02/05/2024, sworn before Advocate and Notary Public Smt. **S. VIJAYALAKSHMI,** Bangalore-560 047.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE for claim against sale of property Example of claim against sale of property is as follows: Notice is hereby given that Mr. Biju Abraham & Mrs. Leena Biju, R/a 144/2 , West: Land bearing Sy. No. 144/1 , South: land bearing Sy. No. 144/3 , North to South: – , East to West: – ; Converted Survey No: 144/2 APT No: G–1 in Ground Floor of Swarana Heavens, free from all encumbrances. Any person having any right, title, interest, claim or demand of any nature whatsoever in respect of the said flat, is hereby required to make the same known in writing along with the documentary proof thereof, to the undersigned at Mr. Y MD Mueez Ahamed R/at Pulicherla, Chittoor–517172 documentary proof thereof, to the undersigned at Y MD Mueez Ahamed R/at Pulicherla, Chittoor–517172 within Seven days from the date of publication hereof, failing which the negotiations shall be completed, without any reference to such claims and the claims if any, shall be deemed to have been given up or waived.Sd/–Y MD Mueez Ahamed. R/at Pulicherla, Chittoor–517172

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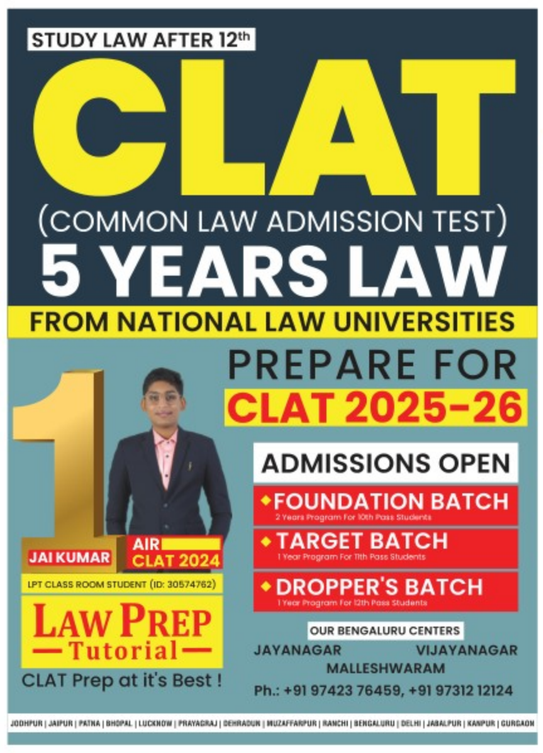

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

BIRTH CENTENARY

CENTENARY BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE
Our Beloved Mother
Thirumathi **CHOODAMANI RAJAGOPALAN**

1924 2024

CHOODAMANI RAJAGOPALAN DOB: 05.05.1924 - DOD: 20.01.2013
S. RAJAGOPALA CHARIAR DOB:24.03.1916 - DOD: 07.03.1995

Our Pranams on this Auspicious Chithirai - Krithikai Day !

Smt.Rama	&	Sri.Narayanan
Smt.Geetha	&	Sri Lakshmi Narasimhan
Smt.Latha	&	Sri Varadarajan
Late Smt. Saraswathi	&	Sri Srinivasan
Smt.Hema	&	Sri Venkatakrishnan
Grand Children	&	Great Grand Children

DEATH

Shri Vilakudi Paravasthu R. RAJAGOPALAN
(Ex-Sr Audit Officer, Member Audit Board)
Attained Acharyan Thiruvadi on 06 May 2024
Deeply mourned by:
Vasantha (wife),
Usha Sridharan & S Sridharan
R Srihari & Sujatha
R Raghunathan & Radha
R Suresh & Lavanya
Grand children &
great grand children
Mobile: 89395 87922

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Prajwal case: HDK terms Shivakumar 'key conspirator' in distribution of pen drives; seeks probe by CBI

Janata Dal (S) State president accuses the SIT of working at the behest of the Chief Minister and the Deputy Chief Minister

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Accusing the Special Investigation Team (SIT), set up by the Government of Karnataka to investigate the alleged sexual exploitation involving Hassan MP Prajwal Revanna, of "working at the behest of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar", former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy has demanded the probe be handed over to the CBI if the focus is on providing justice to the women victims. This is in line with the demand made by the BJP, which is an alliance partner of the JDS.

"If the CM has any morality, he should dismiss Mr. Shivakumar from the cabinet. We will also complain to the Governor of Karnataka," he said in Bengaluru on Tuesday, but was quick to add that he was making no effort to protect Prajwal Revanna in the case.

JD(S) leader H.D. Kumaraswamy addressing a media conference in Bengaluru on Tuesday. He claimed that the SIT has not taken any action against five persons, including the alleged key distributor of the pen drive Naveen Gowda, despite a complaint being lodged against them in Hassan. K. MURALI KUMAR

Terming Mr. Shivakumar as the "key conspirator" in the distribution of pen drives containing explicit sexual content allegedly involving Prajwal Revanna and several women, the former Chief Minister said, "He is behind the release of the pen drives. The SIT officials are behaving like agents of Mr. Siddaramaiah and Mr. Shivakumar." He mocked SIT as "Shivakumar Investigation Team" and "Siddaramaiah Investigation Team".

"Why has SIT not issued a notice to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on his claim that there are 400 women victims? He must surely have some basis to make that claim," he further said. He also accused the AICC General Secretary in charge of Karnataka Randeep Singh Surjewala's involvement in the pen drive release.

"While the State women's commission sought an investigation into the alleged sex exploitation and also against those who distributed the pen drive, the latter has been ignored," the former Chief Minister claimed. "Let the truth come out on the alleged abduction by H.D. Revanna too. Why has SIT not produced the alleged victim in court?" he asked. The Congress, he claimed, is not interested in providing justice, "but working to bring down Prime Minister Narendra Modi."

The former chief minister said, "The SIT has to conduct a fair investigation. On the one hand, it announces circulation or possession of the videos is a crime. On the other hand, it has not taken any action against five persons, including the alleged key distributor of the pen drive Naveen Gowda, despite a complaint being lodged against them in Hassan."

Stating that there is no question of protecting Prajwal Revanna, he said, "It is a sad development for Karnataka. It has made us hang our heads in shame. I will not protect anyone, whoever it is. I will neither interfere nor support Prajwal Revanna in the investigation."

He claimed to be ignorant of the whereabouts of the MP, now believed to be in Germany, and that he is not in touch with him.

"I would have not given the ticket to Prajwal Revanna if the pen drive had come to my notice earlier. Yes, there were issues in giving him a ticket. I wanted to change the candidate after party workers had complained about his behaviour of not respecting seniors and party workers," he said.

Siddaramaiah denies charge, urges Centre to help in probe

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

> It is the Central government that should help us bring back the accused who is said to be in a foreign country.
>
> **SIDDARAMAIAH,** Chief Minister

Countering allegations of the Opposition BJP and its alliance partner JD(S) that SIT probing the alleged sexual exploitation case of Hassan MP and JD(S) leader Prajwal Revanna was "partisan", Siddaramaiah on Tuesday reiterated that the State government "would not interfere in the investigation even by an inch" and that the team was independent, efficient and impartial.

Centre's role

In a release, the Chief Minister said that the success of the SIT investigation now rests entirely on the cooperation of the Centre. "It is the Central government that should help us bring back the accused who is said to be in a foreign country. The BJP, which still is in an alliance with the JDS, should make its stand clear," he said.

The allegations being made by the Opposition parties against the government and SIT, he contended, were not only far from true but also deliberately aimed at misleading the investigation in a bid to protect the accused.

"SIT is holding investigations in a fully transparent manner. The government is committed to take action against whoever is guilty, irrespective of how powerful they are," said the Chief Minister, adding that SIT has efficient police officers.

"The BJP is now saying that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's name is being dragged into all this. But they should have thought of it before striking an alliance with the JD(S)," said Mr. Siddaramaiah.

'Decision on alliance will be made by BJP leaders'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Stating that the accusations of sexual assault on women against Hassan MP Prajwal Revanna would not have an impact on the Lok Sabha elections, former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy said that continuation of the alliance with BJP in Karnataka will depend on the saffron party's leaders.

"I am not bothered about whether the alliance will continue or not. I am bothered about justice to the victims of sexual assault. I want the alliance to be a long-term one, but I do not want to embarrass anyone," he told mediapersons, adding that the decision is up to the BJP leaders. He said that the BJP-JD(S) alliance had scared the Congress, and has put a break in the stride of the Congress. "Congress leaders are worried and anxious about it," he said, blaming the Congress for the controversy in a bid to create divisions among the alliance partners. JD(S) sources said that Mr. Kumaraswamy has not only spoken to BJP central leaders, including Union Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP president J.P. Nadda, but is in constant touch with BJP State leaders too.

Meanwhile, elections have been announced for six seats (three each for graduates' and teachers' constituencies) in the Legislative Council for which the last date of nomination is May 16. A meeting to discuss the modalities of seat-sharing would be held over the next few days, according to sources in the JD(S) and BJP. The JD(S) is expected to put up candidates in two seats.

Revanna treated at Victoria Hospital

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Former Minister H.D. Revanna, arrested on the charge of abducting one of the alleged sex abuse victims of Prajwal Revanna, his son and Hassan MP, was treated at Victoria Hospital for gastritis on Tuesday evening for about two hours. He was treated as an outpatient and he returned to the custody of the Special Investigation Team (SIT), probing the case.

Meanwhile, his police custody of three days ends on Wednesday.

While he will be produced before the court and the SIT is likely to seek his custody further, Mr. Revanna's bail plea will also come up for hearing on Wednesday.

Posters accusing DKS of misusing videos of sex abuse victims surface; probe launched

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bengaluru City Police have launched a probe to identify the people who had put up posters accusing Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar of exploiting explicit video clips of the victims of sex abuse allegedly by Prajwal Revanna, Hassan JD(S) MP, for political gain. Some of these posters used unparliamentary language against the Deputy Chief Minister, while others also had the photos of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

These posters appeared near the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) office on Queens Road, near Lulu Mall, both associated with Mr. Shivakumar. This came hours after Holenarsipura-based advocate Devaraje Gowda, who had claimed he had a copy of all the videos, reportedly in a letter to BJP state president B.Y. Vijayendra in December 2023, alleged Mr. Shivakumar to be behind the videos being leaked. City Police Commissioner B. Dayananda said that the city police had taken cognizance of the posters and had asked the jurisdictional police to probe it further. Officials from Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and Election Commission of India (ECI) are also part of the probe, sources said. Police officials are trying to identify those who put up these posters on Monday late night, by analysing the CCTV footage of cameras in the vicinity.

JD(S) supporters staging a protest against Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar in Bengaluru on Tuesday.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Meanwhile, JD(S) workers staged a protest outside the KPCC office, Queens Road, demanding action against Mr. Shivakumar. Protestors burnt a tyre, and held a dharna raising slogans demanding action against the KPCC president. They were detained by the police and later released.

City hosts the first Southern Star Army Synergia Conclave

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The first Southern Star Army Synergia Conclave, 2024, which will bring together senior Indian Army Officers, leading academia, strategic experts, industry and start-ups is being held between May 7 and 9 in Bengaluru.

The conclave will serve as a platform for industry, start-ups, innovators, venture capitalists, defence PSUs to understand the future of conflict and align their technologies and find opportunities to use cases in the defence sector.

The organisers of the conclave are the Indian Army's Southern Command, Dakshin Bharat Area and Synergia Foundation.

The National Security Advisory Board of the Government of India, the National Security Council will be participants in the conclave. The objective of the conclave is to establish an institutional mechanism for the Indian defence forces, defence enterprises, start-up, MSMEs and the academia to interact and form linkages for long term partnerships, initiate research projects to find customised solutions for challenges with the focus being indigenisation.

According to the organisers the endeavour will be to get a better understanding of the opportunities and challenges while adopting advanced technologies like cyber security, quantum encryptions, artificial intelligence, aerospace and defence, satellites and space and advanced computing.

Lt. Gen K.S. Brar, GOC, Dakshin Bharat Area said, "Self-reliance is key during any war and Make-in-India, which is still a work in progress, has had a good impact on reducing our dependence on imports. But when it comes to acquiring critical technologies, it is important that we mentor start-ups and industries and provide clarity on the kind of requirements.

Auto driver arrested

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The HAL police on Tuesday arrested a 30-year-old autorickshaw driver from Vidyaranyapura who had robbed gold valuables from a college student who had run away from home.

According to the police, the college student ran away from home after being reprimanded by his father. He left home on April 2 and reached Puri Jagannathan temple where he was traced by a team of police based on a missing complaint and reunited him with his family.

The family members found his gold valuables including a gold chain and gold ring missing. Upon questioning, he told the parents that while he was traveling in an autorickshaw to reach the Majestic bus stand, he removed the valuables and kept them in the bag. On the way, he stopped the autorickshaw when the driver sped away with the bag. Based on the complaint, the police analysed CCTV footage and tracked down the accused.

Woman held for stealing cash, valuables from sister's house

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Kengeri police arrested a 22-year-old private firm employee for stealing cash and gold valuables worth ₹65 lakh from her sister's house to repay her personal loan.

The accused Uma, working in an auto consultancy firm in Laggere, is allegedly a spendthrift and borrowed a personal loan of ₹6 lakh. In order to repay the loan, she planned to burgle her own sister's house.

According to the police, Uma used to visit her sister's house in RR Layout. Her sister is married to a realtor and businessman. The family was well off and kept a huge amount of cash at home. Uma knew about this and allegedly decided to steal it. As per the plan, a month ago she had accessed the house keys and got a duplicate set done. She waited for a good opportunity and when the family went to attend a festival in their hometown, Uma gained entry using the duplicate keys and made away with the cash and gold valuables. She had even wiped the finger prints and threw chilli powder around the house to hoodwink the dog squad.

The theft came to light when one of the family members returned home to find that the entire premises was ransacked and valuables were missing. Based on the complaint, the police registered a case of theft and questioned the family members before zeroing in on Uma. She was with her sister trying to console her and also keep a watch on the developments, police said.

A detailed questioning by the police led Uma to confess to the crime. The accused had spend ₹5 lakh and rest of the stolen money and gold she had handed it over to her employer, a police officer said.

Rowdy hacked to death

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

An armed gang of assailants hacked a 40-year-old history-sheeter to death in Banaswadi on Tuesday.

The deceased Karthigeyan, having multiple cases pending against him, was externed from the city two years ago. He returned to the city and was running a real estate business.

He was at work when an armed gang intercepted and hacked him to death. Karthigeyan tried to escape but was chased and hacked to death by the gang before fleeing.

The Banaswadi police rushed to the spot and conducted spot inspection before collecting CCTV footage to identify the assailants.

Police suspect that old rivalry could be the reason behind the murder.

BJP opposes BDA's plan to lease out its complexes, warns of protest against Congress govt.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The govt., facing financial difficulties, has chosen to lease out BDA complexes, says Ashok

BJP has opposed the proposed plan of the Bangalore Development Authority to lease out BDA complexes in different parts of the city. Leader of Opposition in the Assembly and BJP leader R. Ashok criticised the Congress government for mooting the proposal. Mr. Ashok stated that the government, facing financial difficulties, has chosen to lease out BDA complexes. He expressed concern that this decision would lead to the eventual takeover of these properties by private entities, resulting in significant financial losses for the BDA.

"The BDA properties in HSR Layout, Austin Town, Koramangala, Vijayanagar, RT Nagar, and Sadashivanagar are at risk of being taken over by fraudulent individuals. A similar scheme was proposed by the Congress government between 2013 and 2018, but it faced strong opposition from the people of Bengaluru, leading to its cancellation," Mr. Ashoka said.

He added that all these properties are worth ₹3,000 crores. He alleged that there was a kickback of more than ₹200 crores involved in this deal. He emphasised that these properties do not belong to Congress; they were preserved and developed by past presidents of the BDA. He warned that the BJP would protest in Vidhana Soudha and also outside and not allow this to happen.

Mr. Ashok also revealed that this file had surfaced earlier during B.S. Yediyurappa's tenure as Chief Minister. "At that time, I was a Minister, and I said it was a scheme for looting and subsequently, our government cancelled it. The same group attempted to reintroduce this file during Basavaraj Bommai's tenure. However, Mr. Bommai also refused to approve the lease," he said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client propose to purchase the Schedule Property from **Mr. Joseph K.C and Mr. Thomas Kannamkal,** both S/o. Late. Chacko, both residing at No10, 13th Cross, R.A. Road, Ejipura, Bangalore 560047 and they represented to my client that they are the absolute owners of the Schedule Property described below with unrestricted rights of alienation over the same and no other person/s has/have any right, title, interest or claim of whatsoever over the same and the property is free from all encumbrances, charges, mortgage and lien and they have not entered into any Agreement for Sale or any other commitment in respect thereof.

Any person having any right, title, interest or whatsoever claim against the Schedule Property or having any objection of whatsoever nature to the proposed transaction may, within **10 DAYS** hereof, lodge with us his/her/their/its claim in writing in this behalf with the relevant documentary proof in support of such right, title, interest or claim or objection. If no such claim or objection is received within the said period, my client will presume that no person has any such claim and will proceed with the transaction.

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BSK 1st Stage, Bangalore-560 050.
Mob: 9008003449
E-mail : srinilegals@gmail.com
Place : Bangalore Date : 07-05-2024

The unseen effects of climate change on mental health

A defining characteristic of climate change is the ability of its effects to compound rapidly, affecting several walks of human life. Researchers in Canada elucidated one more example of this ability, adding to previous work that has examined its influence on everything from domestic violence to child-trafficking

Arkatapa Basu

The mercury is soaring across India, with many places reporting unusually high temperature readings. It may not be possible to link each heat event to climate change, but we know climate change is bringing such anomalies to more areas, and with greater intensity.

We also know climate change is disproportionately affecting society's most vulnerable members, including those with physical ailments, the elderly, the poor, and the socially and economically marginalised. And we also know climate change has become the basis of a slew of psychological afflictions of its own, including eco-anxiety, eco-paralysis, and solastalgia (a form of emotional or existential distress rendered by environmental changes), together with seeding general concerns in communities worldwide about their livelihoods, future, the future of their children, and their culture.

But let's not forget that climate change's multi-dimensional assault on reality as we know it also potentially includes being able to worsen existing mental health conditions.

A man uses a cardboard box to shield himself from the Sun in Kochi. THULASI KAKKAT

A dubious distinction

A study published last year in the journal *GeoHealth* reported that an extreme heat event in the Canadian province of British Columbia in 2021 affected people with schizophrenia more than those with kidney and heart disease. The study's authors, of the British Columbia Centres for Disease Control and Health Canada, also wrote that people with mental health conditions seem to be at a greater risk of succumbing to heat-related deaths. The stakes were found to be even higher for people diagnosed with schizophrenia, anxiety or bipolar disorder.

During the eight-day extreme heat event in 2021, the province of British Columbia experienced temperatures as high as 40 degrees C when the average temperatures have been around 20 degrees C. The region recorded around 740 excess deaths during this heat wave.

To understand who was affected the most during this event, the researchers compared 1,614 deaths recorded over a month in 2021 with 6,524 deaths recorded in the same time period nine years ago. They analysed the data based on 26 medical conditions, including heart disease, schizophrenia, chronic kidney disease, dementia, depression, Parkinson's disease, and osteoporosis.

The scientists wrote that they expected to find people with kidney and heart diseases to be most at risk, but were surprised to find that that dubious distinction belonged to people with schizophrenia. In particularly, they reported that 8% of the people surveyed in 2021 were previously diagnosed with schizophrenia as opposed to 2.7% of the people surveyed nine years ago. This was a 200% increase from a summer in which heat waves weren't recorded.

To be sure, while people with schizophrenia were found to be at greater risk of heat-related distress than those with kidney and heart diseases, the latter weren't immune: they were at risk as well, just less so.

Dysfunction of the hypothalamus

A closer look at the data revealed that of the 280 people whose deaths were confirmed to be related to heat, 37 people had schizophrenia.

"These results show that people with schizophrenia need extra protection, extra support and extra care," Sarah Henderson, one of the epidemiologists who led the study and the scientific director of Environmental Health Services at the British Columbia Centre for Disease Control, told *Science*.

The researchers believe one of the main reasons people with schizophrenia were more vulnerable to heat stress could be as a result of the dysfunction of the hypothalamus, a structure embedded deep in the human brain. Its main function is to maintain the homeostasis of the body, i.e. to keep the body in a stable condition that ensures it can carry out its normal function. This means it controls the body's temperature, heart rate, hunger, thirst, mood, libido, sleep, and the regulation of hormones.

> Climate change disproportionately affects society's most vulnerable members, including those with physical ailments, the elderly, the poor, and the socially and economically marginalised

Certain antipsychotic medications prescribed to people with schizophrenia have also been found to interfere with the hypothalamus's workings.

One side-effect of such drugs has been a tendency to raise the body's temperature, which when coupled with anomalously high ambient temperatures can rapidly prove fatal.

People with schizophrenia also often have psychotic symptoms such as hallucinations, delusions, disorganised thinking, and memory loss.

They may also suffer from anosognosia: a condition in which they're unable to sense that they're ill.

All this together with comorbidities like diabetes and hypertension can make life very difficult for people with schizophrenia, including potentially interfere with their ability to seek help.

As it happens, marginalisation, lower economic status, and a propensity for loneliness are risk factors for people with schizophrenia, and the same factors can heighten an individual's vulnerability to heat-related illnesses, as the infamous 1995 Chicago heat event demonstrated.

Yet another tentacle

Scientists have urged that though some antipsychotic medicines' have the potential to interfere with people's experience of anomalous ambient heat, they shouldn't be discontinued or tampered with because these are 'lifesaving therapies'. They have suggested that the risk factors associated with schizophrenia, including social isolation, should be tackled instead with interventions like counselling.

In a statement from the British Columbia Centres for Disease Control, Faydra Aldridge, CEO of the British Columbia Schizophrenia Society, said, "As demonstrated by research, because individuals living with schizophrenia are more susceptible to heat-related illness, it is essential that families and caregivers are aware of the increased risk, identify potential risk factors and take action to help their loved one during a heat wave."

She added that "educating ourselves to recognise symptoms of heat-related illness and take emergency cooling measures will help ensure everyone's safety during heat waves."

One of the defining characteristics of climate change is the nonlinear nature of its effects, i.e. their ability to compound rapidly, affecting several walks of human life both directly and indirectly. The *GeoHealth* study elucidated one more example of this ability, adding to previous work that examined its influence on everything from domestic violence to child-trafficking.

THE GIST

A study found that people with mental health conditions seem to be at a greater risk of succumbing to heat-related deaths. The risk is even higher for people diagnosed with schizophrenia, anxiety or bipolar disorder

Researchers believe one of the main reasons people with schizophrenia were more vulnerable could be dysfunction of the hypothalamus. It controls the body's temperature, heart rate, hunger, thirst, mood, libido, sleep, and regulation of hormones

Antipsychotic medications also interfere with the hypothalamus. One side-effect of such drugs is a tendency to raise body temperature, which when coupled with anomalously high ambient temperatures can rapidly prove fatal

BIG SHOT

Argentina's corn farmers are facing a dangerous new enemy because of global warming: a yellow insect just 4 mm long that thrives in hotter temperatures and is threatening harvests. In this image, leafhoppers are seen on a corn plant on a National Institute of Agricultural Technology experimental field in Cordoba, Argentina. REUTERS

QUESTION CORNER

Keeping the concrete plastic

Q: What is the role of superplasticizers in concrete?

A1: The water cement (W/C) ratio is an important factor deciding the durability of concrete. Its impermeability, strength, and durability are directly proportional to this and so this has to be kept small.

In normal cement pastes, when cement particles come into close contact with each other, there is a tendency for the pastes to form large 'floes' due to attractive forces acting between them. Because of such formation, more water than required is added. This increases the W/C ratio and affects the concrete's properties.

These can be overcome by adding superplasticizers at the appropriate stage of mixing the ingredients of concrete. It helps to reduce inter-particle attraction between cement particles and to disperse the cement particles with less water. These superplasticizers actually form a chain of molecules and are completely absorbed into the system.

V. Sadasivam

A2: Superplasticizers are effective water-reducing admixtures used in making concrete. They are sulphonated melamine formaldehyde condensates or sulphonated naphthalene formaldehyde condensates. These are used to produce 'flowing' concrete in cases where placing in inaccessible locations is required.

They are also used in the production of high strength concrete using normal workability but a very low water/cement ratio so as to reduce the heat of hydration in mass concrete.

R. Sakthi Balachandran

Construction workers putting finishing touches on freshly poured concrete. GETTY IMAGES

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to
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with the subject 'Daily page'

Fee revision for government PU colleges unlikely this year

In 2018-19, the government increased the fees by 60%. The fees have not been revised since then due to the pandemic and related financial difficulties

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

Though the Department of School Education (Pre-University) has submitted a proposal to revise fees for PU courses in government colleges, a revision is very unlikely for the academic year 2024-25, sources said.

The Department had in January submitted a proposal to revise the fees by at least 20 - 30%. However, the government has not taken a decision on the proposal yet. Class 10 results are expected in the next couple of days, following which admissions to pre-university course begins. However, as the model code of conduct for the parliamentary polls will be in force till June 4, a decision on the matter is unlikely till then, sources said. The Finance Department has also not approved the proposal yet.

"A proposal has been submitted to the government regarding the fee revision of PU courses for the academic year of 2024-25, but no decision has been taken so far. If the government does not revise the fee, the previous year's fee will continue," said Sindhu. B. Rupesh, Director of DSE (PU) said. Presently, government colleges charge ₹796 for backward class students and ₹1,466 fee for general category students, even as they provide free education for girls, and SC, ST students.

The last time the fees were revised was in 2018-19, five years ago and since then the fees have not been revised due to the pandemic and related financial difficulties. In 2018-19, the government hiked the fees by 60%, and before that by 30% by 2013-14. The Department has proposed a hike in the range of 20-30% of not only annual fees, but lab fees, exam fees among other categories.

However, this fee revision will not affect fee structure in private colleges as they have their own fee structure and the government doesn't decide on their fees.

A decision on the matter is unlikely as the model code of conduct for the parliamentary polls will be in force till June 4. FILE PHOTO

Timings
BENGALURU

WEDNESDAY, MAY. 08	
RISE 05:56	SET 18:36
RISE 05:48	SET 18:56
THURSDAY, MAY. 09	
RISE 05:56	SET 18:36
RISE 06:40	SET 19:59
FRIDAY, MAY. 10	
RISE 05:56	SET 18:36
RISE 07:36	SET 21:02

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	38	28
Mysuru	37	24
Bengaluru	37	24

Bengaluru Today
37°C Morning will be pleasant Day will be very warm and uneasy. Chances of light rain and thundershower at few places. A comfortable night .

Bengaluru Tomorrow
36°C Weather will be very warm with uneasy afternoon. Night will comfortable Chances of light rain and thundershower with gusty winds.

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THE HINDU
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Fire breaks out in city hospital

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As many as 40 people, including 16 patients, in a private hospital in Rajanakunte had a narrow escape after a fire broke out in the basement of a three-storeyed private hospital in Rajanukunte on Tuesday morning.

The fire was first noticed in the basement area near the lab of Raksha Health Care at around 9 a.m., where heavy machinery was kept.

The smoke that spread all around created panic among the staff, visitors, and patients.

The fire control room received a call around 9.15 a.m. following which six fire tenders rushed to the spot.

Meanwhile, staff, visitors, and residents staying in and around rushed to help, shifted the patients, and evacuated the building.

According to the fire department, the fire broke out in the lab in the basement of the 50-bed private hospital. Though the blaze did not spread to the ground and the three upper floors of the building, the entire hospital was engulfed in thick smoke. The patients, including two in the ICU, were shifted to the nearest hospital and their condition is said to be stable.

According to the Fire Services Dept., the blaze started in the lab in the basement of the 50-bed private hospital

"All patients are stable. Two of the staff members sustained minor injuries during the evacuation. A few others complained of uneasiness and suffocation because of the thick smoke that engulfed the building," a senior official said.

It took nearly two hours to bring the fire under control. Though an electric short circuit is suspected to have caused the fire, the police and fire officials are probing to ascertain the exact reason behind the accident.

Ambulance staff put off protest plan

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Following an assurance by Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao and Health Commissioner Randeep D. that their demand for doing away with zonal classification for payment of wages would be discussed after the process of the Lok Sabha election is completed, the employees of the 108 Arogya Kavacha emergency service have put off their plan to protest till then.

Upset over the delay in payment of salaries and rollback of 45% increment sanctioned during the previous government's tenure, the employees had threatened to strike work from Tuesday. Around 715 ambulances and approximately 3,500 employees across Karnataka are associated with the 108 ambulance associations' service.

Chandranna, general secretary of the Karnataka State 108 Arogya Kavacha Employees' Association, said the employees have decided to put off their plan, "We understand that the government cannot take any decisions now when the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) is in place."

Water adalat tomorrow

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) will hold water adalat on Thursday between 9.30 a.m. and 11 a.m. to address the grievances relating to water billing, delays in providing water supply and sanitary connections, delays in converting from domestic connection to non-domestic connection and other connected issues.

According to a BWSSB release, the adalat will be held at several sub-divisions.

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Space available to start Bank Branch with ATM and/or Regional Office by Nationalized Banks, Scheduled and Commercial Banks - abutting National High Way (44), AERI Campus, Opp to SIPCOT Phase-II, Hosur. The premises has Spacious parking facility and all other necessary amenities admeasuring First Floor: 768 SQM / 8264 SFT (48m X 16m) and Second Floor: 768 SQM / 8264 SFT (48m X 16 m) TOTAL 1536 SQM / 16528 SFT. Banker can design interiors and exteriors for bank branch, ATM, Regional Office, meeting hall, waiting Room, pantry, rest rooms, guest rooms etc as per requirements.
Interested banks can visit the premises with prior appointment in any working day and send the offer letter to:
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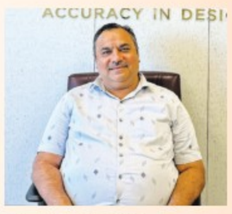
Arjunaa Jewellers: Embracing Tradition and Innovation this Akshaya Trithiya

As the auspicious occasion of Akshaya Trithiya approaches, Bengaluru's own Arjunaa Jewellers stands ready to mark the celebration with a blend of tradition and innovation. This year's festivities promise to be nothing short of extraordinary, as the brand continues its legacy of excellence in the world of precious jewellery.

Founded amidst the challenges of the pandemic, Arjunaa Jewellers has quickly risen to prominence, becoming a household name known for its commitment to quality, craftsmanship and Accuracy in Design. With a multi-generational legacy spanning over six decades, the brand seamlessly merges the expertise of seasoned artisans with the fresh perspective of young entrepreneurs, backed by the experience of two seasoned directors.

Rahul A Jain and Akshay A Jain, the dynamic duo behind Arjunaa Jewellers, embody the spirit of innovation and tradition. With their vision and dedication, they have propelled the brand to new heights every season, while staying true to its roots and ideals at the inception. Reflecting on their journey, Rahul shares, Joining forces with Rahul and Akshay are two esteemed directors, Mr. Ashok D Jain and Mr. Vinod Kumar Jain, each boasting over three decades of experience in the jewellery industry. Their expertise and guidance have been instrumental in shaping Arjunaa Jewellers into the beacon of excellence it is today.


Mr. Ashok D Jain:
"Akshaya Trithiya is a time-honoured tradition that symbolises prosperity and abundance. It is a joyous occasion that brings families together to celebrate the blessings of wealth and fortune. We are just fortunate to be the epicentre of this sentiment, at Arjunaa."

Mr. Vinod Kumar Jain:
"At Arjunaa Jewellers, we strive to capture the essence of Akshaya Trithiya in every piece we create, in this season. Our designs are not just ornaments; they are embodiments of prosperity, timeless beauty and of course, Accuracy in Design."

Rahul Jain:
"For us, Akshaya Trithiya is not just a celebration; it's a testament to our commitment to preserving and honouring our cultural heritage through our craftsmanship.

Akshay A Jain:
"We are excited to showcase our newest creations to our patrons this Akshaya Trithiya. Our collections are inspired by the rich tapestry of Indian culture and tradition, and we are confident that they will resonate with our customers."

more of their latest creations. From intricate gold designs to dazzling diamond creations, each piece is a masterpiece from the house of Arjunaa is crafted with utmost care and attention to detail in what is an ode to the quintessential modern Indian: rooted in tradition and yet, at par with the best of the modern world.

In addition to their exquisite jewellery offerings, Arjunaa Jewellers is known for its unparalleled customer experience, courtesy, and hospitality and this Akshaya Trithiya will be no different: ensuring that customers can celebrate the occasion in style while also enjoying the wonderful designs made by the lineage of artisans at Arjunaa.

"We want to make Akshaya Trithiya truly memorable for our customers," explains Rahul. "That's why we are constantly working towards ensuring that each customer who walks into the portals of Arjunaa has a unique and warm hospitable experience. From a valet to a children's play area, there should be nothing in the way of our Arjunaa patrons having a wonderful experience with us, this Akshaya Trithiya."

With its unwavering commitment to quality, craftsmanship, and customer satisfaction, Arjunaa Jewellers is poised to make this Akshaya Trithiya a truly unforgettable experience for jewellery enthusiasts across Bengaluru and beyond – as proven by them being the titular holders of the Paramparik Jewellery Award from NJA in 2021, within the first year of Arjunaa's inception.

As Mr. Ashok D Jain aptly puts it, "Akshaya Trithiya is a time to embrace tradition, celebrate prosperity, and create lasting memories with loved ones. At Arjunaa Jewellers, we invite you to join us in commemorating this auspicious occasion with elegance and grace."

With the combined expertise of its directors and the passion of its founders, Arjunaa Jewellers continues to shine as a beacon of excellence in the world of precious jewellery, setting new standards of craftsmanship and innovation with each passing year. This Akshaya Trithiya, let Arjunaa Jewellers be your destination for timeless beauty and unparalleled luxury.

69, 38th A Cross, 4th T Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru 560041. T: 080- 26651969, 41241969 /70 www.arjunaa.com

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Number of activists arrested at pro-Palestine protests

125 Police arrested the activists as they broke up a pro-Palestinian camp at the University of Amsterdam. Protests that have roiled campuses in the U.S have spread into Europe. AP

Number of voters to cast vote in special forest booth

1 Deep inside the Gir forest in Gujarat, a Hindu monk cast his ballot at a voting booth in Banej, on Tuesday, ensuring a 100% turnout at the polling station. Mahant Haridas Udaseen is the sole registered voter. AFP

The marginal decline in India's toy exports in 2023-24

152.34 in $ million. India's toy exports declined marginally in 2023-24 from $153.89 million in the previous financial year, according to a report by the GTRI. PTI

The economic benefits that can be generated with EO data

3 in $ trillion. Earth Observation (EO) data refers to collection, analysis, and presentation of information about the Earth's physical, chemical, and biological systems using remote sensing technologies. PTI

The Indian military personnel withdrawn from Maldives

51 The soldiers were withdrawn from Maldives ahead of the May 10 deadline set by President Mohamed Muizzu for the complete withdrawal of Indian military personnel. PTI

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The Kotak Mahindra Bank controversy

What are the restrictions imposed by the Reserve Bank of India on the bank? Has the apex banking regulator carried out similar actions in the past? What do global agencies say about the issue? How has the CEO of Kotak Mahindra Bank responded?

EXPLAINER

Saptaparno Ghosh

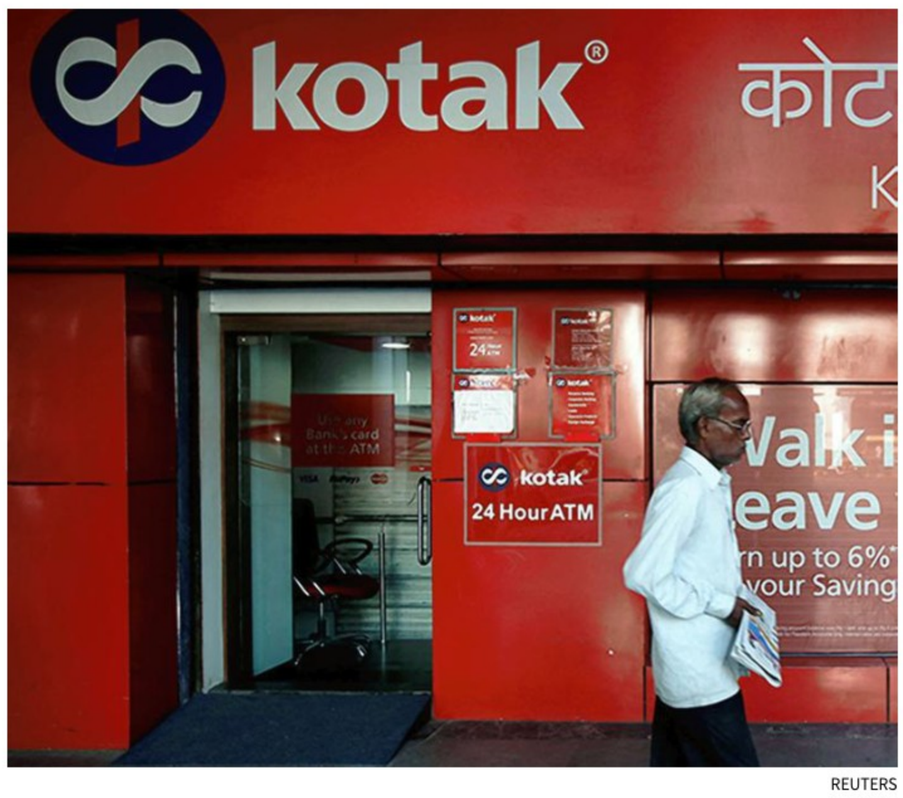
The story so far:

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on April 24 barred Kotak Mahindra Bank (KMB) from onboarding new customers on its online and mobile banking channels, and issuing fresh credit cards. It would however be allowed to provide these services to its existing customers. The RBI stated the actions were necessitated because of deficiencies observed in the private lender's IT systems and controls commensurate to its growth. KMB's CEO Ashok Vaswani stated recently the bank was in continuous dialogue with RBI to attain the desired compliance outcomes.

What are these actions based on?

RBI observed "serious deficiencies and non-compliances" concerning KMB's IT inventory and user access management, data leak and leak prevention strategy, business continuity and disaster recovery rigour and drill, among other things. This was based on the regulator's examination of the private bank's systems for two years, that is, 2022 and 2023. The regulator said KMB continually failed to address concerns in a "comprehensive and timely manner". The bank was also deemed non-compliant with RBI's subsequent recommendations or 'Corrective Action Plans' (CAPs). CAPs are part of an intervention scheme of the RBI to ensure robustness of regulated entities.

As per the RBI, the compliances submitted by KMB were either "inadequate, incorrect or not substantiated". Further, in the absence of robust IT infrastructure and risk management systems, its online and digital banking channels have suffered "frequent and significant outages in the last two years". The latest incident happened on April 15. In a post on 'X', the bank's customer care representative informed that its technical servers were experiencing "intermittent slowness". The current measures would be reviewed in an external audit to be commissioned by the bank with RBI's approval to assess remediation undertaken.



REUTERS

Is this a first?

No. The RBI, like its peers world over, has been particularly wary of how digital banking and the overall financial landscape functions. In December 2020, the regulator had ceased HDFC from launching any new digital products and sourcing new credit card consumers. This was also based on a two-year assessment that had come across recurrent incidents of outage in its internet and mobile banking platforms, alongside payment utilities. The restrictions were lifted more than a year later in March 2022 after a successful remediation.

On similar lines, the RBI in October 2023 directed the Bank of Baroda to suspend any fresh onboarding of customers onto its 'bob World' mobile application. This was also based on "certain material supervisory concerns" with the RBI demanding the rectification of observed deficiencies.

What about the bank's financials?

According to S&P Global Ratings, the regulatory action may set back the bank's credit growth and profitability. It added that credit cards are among the higher-yielding target growth segment of the bank. The portfolio grew 52% YoY as on December 31 last year compared with a total loan growth of 19%. "Action by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) this week could push the bank to rely more on physical branch network expansion to supplement growth thus entailing higher operating costs," its note read. However, the agency maintained that RBI's action will not "materially affect" its ratings. This is because credit cards accounted for only 4% of the bank's total loans at the end of the year and it would still be able to cross-sell its products.

The banks' net profit in the fourth quarter rose 18% to ₹4,133 crore from ₹3,496 crore in the year-ago period. This was on the back of a 13% YoY growth in net interest income at ₹6,909 crore. Importantly however, the CEO Mr. Vaswani stated that while the financial impact (from the RBI action) is expected to be minimal, he was more worried about the "reputational impact". Earlier, Mr. Vaswani had listed previous efforts taken by the bank to up their tech resilience, including capacity building and addressing risk and resilience. Importantly, he stated that technology expenses accounted for about 10% of their total operating expense.

Kotak Mahindra however had plans to continue investing in their card franchise. As stated in an investor call earlier, its overall credit card advances grew by over 50% on a YoY basis. The plan may now be put on hold. Brokerage services provider Motilal Oswal observed that the ban would bother the growth trajectory of the bank's retail products. It would also adversely impact their margins and profitability. Its note explained that KMB's growth trajectory for retail products was aided by a higher mix of digital sourcing and a thrust on unsecured products.

For perspective, the private lender sold 95% of their personal loans and 99% of their (fresh) credit cards by digital means. On the profitability front, Shivaji Thapliyal, Head of Research and Lead Analyst at YES Securities, observed that HDFC ended up losing market share in credit card spends during the time it was barred. S&P anticipates KMB to potentially take a year to fully address RBI's key concerns. It observed that while the bank has made "significant progress" on technological enhancements, implementing changes and the external audit will take time.

THE GIST

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on April 24 barred Kotak Mahindra Bank (KMB) from onboarding new customers on its online and mobile banking channels, and issuing fresh credit cards.
- RBI observed "serious deficiencies and non-compliances" concerning KMB's IT inventory and user access management, data leak and leak prevention strategy, business continuity and disaster recovery rigour and drill, among other things.
- CEO Mr. Vaswani stated that while the financial impact (from the RBI action) is expected to be minimal, he was more worried about the "reputational impact".

How is the U.K. deporting migrants to Rwanda?

Does the East African nation have an economic incentive to be part of the U.K's asylum plan?

Sumeda

The story so far:

Last week, the British authorities deported an asylum seeker to Rwanda under a voluntary returns scheme and started detaining other migrants in the country in preparation for deportations to Rwanda by July as part of an immigration law passed by the U.K. Parliament. In April 2022, the U.K. struck a deal with Rwanda to address issues related to undocumented migration. However, the relocation policy was declared unlawful by the U.K. Supreme Court. In response, the Conservative government finalised a new agreement with Rwanda to ensure additional safeguards. The new legislation allows authorities to remove asylum seekers who have made "unauthorised journeys" since January 1, 2022, to Rwanda for processing of asylum claims.

How was the deportation facilitated?

The Voluntary Returns Scheme (VRS), under which the migrant was sent to Rwanda by the U.K. government, is not an entirely new programme. The plan was introduced by the Home Office in 1999 and co-funded by the European Refugee Fund. In 2002, a reintegration assistance programme was added to the scheme to help repatriated migrants meet their basic needs after arrival, such as finding a place to live, finding a job etc. The current plan is an extension of the existing VRS.

Under the new programme, the British government offers financial assistance to migrants and failed asylum seekers who opt to depart to a "safe third country," or a country they are "admissible to." A person is eligible to apply for the service if they have been in the U.K. illegally or have overstayed their visa; withdrawn, or want to withdraw their application to stay in the country; claimed asylum; or have an official letter confirming that they are a victim of modern slavery. A one-off payment is available to those departing to a country recognised as developing by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). The OECD categorises Rwanda as a low-income developing country. Over the years, several individuals have been sent to Rwanda from the U.K. under the VRS. As per the latest data, 19,253 individuals were voluntarily returned from Britain under the returns scheme last year.

Is Rwanda safe for refugees?

The landlocked country of Rwanda is one of the most densely populated countries in the world with a population of over 13 million people. While the country has recorded significant progress in recent years in developing its economy, it continues to feature among the least developed nations in the world.

Additionally, the government in Rwanda has been accused of stifling dissent, keeping a tight control on media and opposition, and supporting rebel groups in the Democratic Republic of Congo. "Arbitrary detention, ill-treatment, and torture in official and unofficial detention facilities were commonplace, and fair trial standards were routinely flouted in cases deemed sensitive," the Human Rights Watch noted. The agency has also highlighted how Rwanda's government has continued to exert pressure on refugees. "Refugees who are known critics of the government have been threatened and harassed. In Africa, the Human Rights Watch has documented Rwandan refugees and asylum seekers being forcibly disappeared and returned to Rwanda, or killed," it added. Around 90% of these refugees live in five camps across the country, while around 80% of the refugee population is highly vulnerable and fully relies on humanitarian assistance, according to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). It is in such a context that Rwanda has now agreed to open its borders to over 50,000 more refugees in the next few years.

What's in it for Rwanda?

As part of the asylum plan, the U.K. government will give development funding to the country and has promised to meet processing and integration costs for each relocated person. Britain has already paid Rwanda 220 million pounds, and the total cost is estimated to go up to 600 million pounds for 300 refugees. Despite criticism from several quarters, Rwanda's President Paul Kagame maintains that its decision to be part of the U.K.'s asylum plan is not economically driven or about "trading people," but to offer them a better chance at life.

THE GIST

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- The government in Rwanda has been accused of stifling dissent, keeping a tight control on media and opposition, and supporting rebel groups in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

At work: Women employed under the MGNREGA scheme show their inked fingers in Vijayapura on Tuesday. PTI

"As polling in the State concludes, my congratulations to all the voters who have enriched the significance of democracy.

B.Y. VIJAYENDRA,
BJP State president

Leading by example: Raghavendra Anvekar, para-athlete and district SVEEP ambassador, after voting in Belagavi. P.K. BADIGER

"Voted for a *prabuddh* and *samrudhh Bharat*... It is time to reclaim the Constitution and the nation.

PRIYANK KHARGE
Minister for IT/BT and Rural Development and Panchayat Raj

Study tour: Members of a foreign election delegation visited the Sakhi booth at Sambra in Belagavi district on Tuesday. P.K. BADIGER

SNIPPETS

When voters felt like kings and queens for a day

The voting day is often described as a "festival of democracy", but election officials in the Shivamogga Lok Sabha constituency, in an attempt to enthuse voters to exercise their franchise, had made arrangements to literally make them feel like kings and queens. At the booth in the zilla panchayat office in Shivamogga town, there was a selfie point with a 'throne' and 'crown'. Voters posed for pictures sitting on the 'throne' and wearing the 'crown', after casting their votes. The election staff wore attires resembling the staff in a palace and the polling station was decorated to look like a palace.

Many centenarians chose to come to booths

Many centenarians cast their vote in various places in the 14 Lok Sabha constituencies on Tuesday, though they had the vote-from-home option. Among them was centenarian and former Minister Bheemanna Khandre, who voted in Bidar. His grandson Sagar Khandre is the Congress candidate from the Bidar Lok Sabha constituency, while his son Eshwar Khandre is a Minister in the Siddaramaiah-led government.

In the same constituency, 110-year-old Lakshmi Bai Mahapure *(in picture)* cast her vote at Kaplapur village in Bhalki taluk. In January, Revenue Department officials reached her doorsteps to provide her old-age pension and other benefits, of which she was deprived for not having any documents or identity card.

In yet another instance, Krishnabai Murumkhar, 103, cast her vote at Shivaji Nagar in Jamkhandi in Bagalkot district.

A family that votes together ...

Polling stations 56 and 57 at Noolvi village in Dharwad district witnessed an unusual scene on Tuesday. Close to a hundred members belonging to three generations of a joint family came at a time to the polling stations at the Government School for Girls to exercise their franchise.

The family headed by Kanteppa Totad not only voted but also celebrated the occasion by taking selfies and group photographs on the polling station premises.

Every election, the Totad family members used to come to the polling station in three vehicles at different times. But this time, they came together and cast their votes, one of the family members said.

Despite scorching sun, people turn up at booths in large numbers to vote

Mercury hovered between 44° and 46° Celsius across Kalyan Karnataka region; Kittur Karnataka saw a maximum temperature of 40° Celsius

POLLING DAY

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI/ KALABURAGI/ BELAGAVI

Braving the scorching heat – with the mercury hovering between 44° and 46° Celsius across the Kalyana Karnataka region and reaching a maximum of around 40° Celsius in Kittur Karnataka region – people came out in good numbers to exercise their franchise in the 14 Lok Sabha constituencies on Tuesday.

Many came early to the polling stations to avoid the mid-day heat, resulting in long queues outside the polling stations during the initial hours. By 11 a.m., many of the constituencies had registered a polling percentage of up to 25%. The polling pace slowed down for a few hours in the afternoon but gained momentum in the evening. The Election Commission had made special arrangements such as providing shamianas to rest under for the voters.

The enthusiasm was palpable, particularly among first-time voters and electors residing in foreign countries who had flown down to India to cast their votes.

Waiting for their turn: Women standing in a queue at a polling station in Belagavi Lok Sabha constituency on Tuesday. P.K. BADIGER

Overall, the polling was peaceful, barring two instances of manhandling in Belagavi district, resulting in injuries to party workers

Prominent among those who voted were AICC president M. Mallikarjun Kharge, Ministers Laxmi Hebbalkar, Eshwar Khandre, Shivanand Patil, and Santosh Lad, all from the Congress, and Union Minister Pralhad Joshi, and former Chief Ministers Basavaraj Bommai, Jagadish Shettar, and B.S. Yediyurappa, all from the BJP.

Overall, the polling was peaceful, barring two instances of manhandling in Belagavi district, resulting in injuries to party workers. Hanumant Arabavi, Congress booth agent at Bandarhalli in Belagavi district was injured when he was allegedly attacked by BJP supporters accusing him of canvassing inside the polling station. He, in turn, filed a complaint with the Saundatti police. Two young men came to blows in a polling booth at Elimunnoli village near Hukkeri in Belagavi district over a trivial issue. The youth complained that the authorities should put up more booths to reduce the rush.

There were a few instances of technical glitches in EVM units, which resulted in polling being delayed for a few minutes in Vijayapura and Dharwad constituencies.

People at Vittalapur village in Kushtagi taluk of Koppal district boycotted the elections to register their of protest against a doctor, who they held responsible for the death of a pregnant woman a few days ago.

Anjali Nimbalkar, Congress nominee in Uttara Kananda, intercepted a BJP agent at Nittur near Khanapur in Belagavi district accusing him of canvassing around the booth. Meanwhile, the BJP has decided to complain to the Election Commission against Ms. Hebbalkar for alleged violation of the model code of conduct as she and her family members were seen showing three fingers of their right hand inside the booth, which is the serial number of Mrinal Hebbalkar, candidate and her son.

Despite the ban on carrying cell phones into the polling stations, a few voters from Gadag, Haveri, and Dharwad districts posted video clips of them casting votes on social media platforms, resulting in cases being registered.

Lunch break

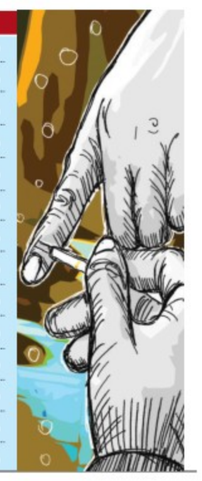
Despite a series of training programmes for the polling staff, Dharwad witnessed an unusual development with polling staff locking the polling station for at least 20 minutes so that they could have their lunch. An inquiry has been ordered.

Vijay Kulkarni votes

The former Minister Vinay Kulkarni, who is barred from entering Dharwad district in connection with a murder case, visited Dharwad after a gap of four years to cast his vote, after the court allowed him to exercise his franchise.

Voter turnout in third phase

Constituency	2024	2019
Chikkodi	**76.99%**	75.62%
Belagavi	**71.00%**	67.84%
Bagalkot	**70.10%**	70.70%
Vijayapura	**64.71%**	61.89%
Kalaburagi	**61.73%**	61.18%
Raichur	**64.10%**	58.34%
Bidar	**63.55%**	63.00%
Koppal	**69.87%**	68.56%
Ballari	**72.35%**	69.76%
Haveri	**76.78%**	74.21%
Dharwad	**72.53%**	70.29%
Uttara Kannada	**73.52%**	74.16%
Davangere	**76.23%**	73.19%
Shivamogga	**76.05%**	76.58%



Polling ends; month-long, nail-biting wait begins

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As the curtains came down on the hard-fought and high-pitched Lok Sabha elections amid the sweltering heat in Karnataka on Tuesday, it will be nearly a month-long tense wait for the electoral fortunes to be known. The counting of votes across the country will take place on June 4.

Amid the prevailing drought, the worst in four decades the State is facing, which is likely to impact the results, the ruling Congress fought on the plank of five guarantees and "injustice" meted out to the State by the Centre in terms of tax devolution and drought relief, while the BJP ran the "Modi development" agenda and the Hindutva plank. The diatribe by Congress and BJP leaders against each other in the nearly month-long election campaign also drowned several important issues that affect the electorate across the State.

While 14 Lok Sabha constituencies in south Karnataka region, including two coastal constituencies, went to the polls on April 26 as part of the second phase, the remaining 14 Lok Sabha constituencies in Kalyana Karnataka, Kittur Karnataka, and one coastal constituency, went to the polls as part of third phase on Tuesday.

(Clockwise from top) BJP leaders B.S. Yediyurappa, B.Y. Vijayendra, and B.Y. Raghavendra with their family members after voting in Shivamogga on Tuesday, Minister M.B. Patil at a polling booth in Vijayapura, and Minister Satish Jarkiholi showing his inked finger after voting in Chikkodi constituency.

Impact of guarantees

The Congress seems to have challenged the BJP in most constituencies through the effective implementation of the five guarantees, which it promised ahead of the 2023 Assembly elections. It set a counter-narrative to the BJP's Hindutva plank or the "Modi effect" through the guarantees and a more organised campaign, making the poll outcome prediction difficult. The margin of victories could be narrow, as a result. Political observers believe that this election, in the absence of a perceived wave, was

Congress fought the polls on the plank of five guarantees and 'injustice' meted out to the State by the Centre, while the BJP ran the 'Modi development' agenda

fought at the constituency level with each displaying different trends based on individuals and local issues.

Midway through the election campaign, the alleged sexual exploitation case involving the Janata Dal (Secular) Hassan MP Prajwal Revanna created a pan-Karnataka narrative against the BJP for aligning with the JD(S), which has now transcended the State borders. The persistent Congress attack is learnt to have put the BJP on the defensive, and has embarrassed the JD(S).

Political observers also believe that the alleged sexual exploitation case provided the Congress with a lever to contain the possible polarisation of votes in favour of the BJP after the killing of Congress councillor's daughter Neha Hiremath. The incident in Hubballi was perceived to have consolidated the powerful Lingayat votes in favour of the BJP in north Karnataka constituencies, most of which are dominated by various Veerashaiva-Lingayat sub-castes.

Local impact

The parliamentary election results are being keenly awaited as the BJP and the JD(S) went to the polls in a formal alliance for the first time. The future of the alliance is being tied to the election outcome. Though contesting in only three seats, the JD(S) is seeing this as a battle for survival and retaining its identity in the Vokkaliga politics. The BJP faces the uphill task of repeating the good show of 2019 when it won 25 seats. The results could also reflect on the leadership of the new BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra, son of Lingayat strongman and former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa.

The electoral outcome could also have consequences within the ruling Congress where speculation is rife on the rotation of the Chief Minister's post between Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar. The Congress' performance could be viewed differently by both camps, and Congress insiders believe that the ripple effect of the results would be felt in the party later.

Many turn up from foreign shores to vote

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

The Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) activities of the Election Commission to increase the polling percentage seem to have not only impacted the electors in India but also influenced those residing in other countries. Some of them flew to India well in advance to participate in the "festival of democracy" on Tuesday.

In Haveri, Bhuvaneshwari Karigoudar, who is residing in Australia, cast her vote at polling station no. 216 at Basveshwar Nagar. She told press persons that she has made it a point to vote in every election.

In Kundagol, Sphoorti Shiggavi had come from the U.S. to exercise her franchise. Similarly, Ruchita Alur of Vijayanagar in Hubballi had travelled from the U.S. to cast her vote. She exercised her franchise at Lions School in Hubballi.

A few others who arrived in Dharwad on Monday from different countries were welcomed by BJP leaders with special Dharwad pedha.

CACHE

What high-temperature maps get wrong about heatwaves

The challenge of predicting heatwaves, or in fact any extremes, raises the question of how we should depict them for the people at large. The use of total temperature maps hide many details of what we need from forecasts to guide disaster management

Raghu Murtugudde

Heatwaves arrive like clockwork over many regions of the world and are getting even more attention due to the upward trends in many regions in terms of their duration, frequency, intensity, and scale.

They arrive at more or less expected times of the year because they are directly related to the natural seasonal arrival of spring. This pattern is called the climate. Most people see heat waves on the horizon as March rolls in over the Indian subcontinent. This is why the old adage says climate is what you expect and the weather is what you get; and herein lies the challenge of accurately predicting heatwaves at a hyperlocal scale to save lives. Fortunately, India is getting better at predicting extremes and managing the resulting disasters.

Predicting a heatwave

The challenge of predicting heatwaves, or in fact any extremes, raises the question of how we should depict them for the people at large. For better or for worse, a new trend has emerged where even reputable scientific organisations, such as NASA, publicise frightening total-temperature maps. While these maps may communicate alarm well, they can also be misleading. Scientific methodology says we need to show anomalies, not the absolute value.

In reality, heat waves are excess temperatures over the expected seasonal values. Seasonally warm temperatures are expected and they don't become heatwaves until we have anomalous temperatures riding on top of them. This is a simple point, yet it requires strict adherence to avoid confusing the general public. To illustrate, here are maps that compare visual representations of total and anomalous temperature values.

The total temperature can be the average value over several days or the average of the daily minimum and daily maximum temperatures. Temperatures averaged over several days show the warmth (which we expect) over the ocean and on land, with lower temperatures over the Himalayas and the Tibetan Plateau. The daily minimum temperature map shows colder temperatures everywhere compared to the daily averages, again as one would expect. The daily maximum temperatures are similar to those in NASA's maps – and they now appear routinely in media reports. And for good measure, some reports also use words like "frying pan" and "cauldron" to describe temperatures over large areas.

Note that even if specific countries are identified with their maximum temperatures, these annotations are not so useful for real-world disaster management. Total temperature maps hide many details of what we need from forecasts to guide disaster management. This fact becomes clear in the anomaly temperature maps for the same days. The contrasts with the total temperature maps couldn't be starker than when we examine the anomalous quantities in the same temperatures. We derive these anomalies by subtracting the long-term average temperatures for the same days from the recorded values. For example, if the long-term average is 30 degrees C and the recorded value is 34 degrees C, the anomalous value is 4 degrees C.

The daily averages and minimum and maximum temperatures for the days considered here were in fact lower than normal over parts of India and Pakistan. Anomalies in the maximum temperature are indeed much lower than anomalies in the minimum temperatures over these regions. The warmest maximum temperatures occurred over several places – but this hardly describes a "frying pan" or a "cauldron". However, Pakistan's heatwave season extends into July, so it isn't out of the woods yet as far as heatwaves this year are concerned.

Global warming is local

Another crucial aspect of mapping anomalies instead of total temperatures is that the location-specific processes that generate these heatwaves are very important for us to be able to predict them at the scales relevant to disaster management. Entire countries can't prepare for weather disasters; the sharper the spatial hazard and the risk information, the likelier it is for disaster management to be effective and efficient. This is rendered more important considering the limited resources – even in rich countries, leave alone the economically developing world facing worse heatwaves.

Such caveats apply to extremes of rainfall, droughts, and floods as well. However, anomalous temperatures manifest on much larger scales. Exposing people to scary maps may raise awareness but they could also undermine credibility if a heat wave doesn't materialise in a particular local area or if forecasts don't pan out.

The case for anomaly maps

Forecasting systems function at the scale of the forecast's model grid. For example, the Indian forecast system for short- (days 1-3) and medium- (days 3-10) range forecasts has a resolution of 12 km, so the forecasts are made at this scale. Early warnings are also developed based on these forecasts.

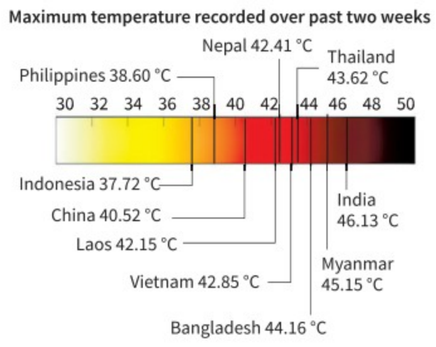
The National Disaster Management Agency coordinates with the India Meteorological Department and local governments to spread awareness across the country and save lives. With more than 12 lakh polling booths this year for the Lok Sabha polls, scary maps may also have the negative consequence of scaring people away from turning out to vote. We can avoid this by using anomaly maps instead. Reliable early warning systems can also be improved continuously, especially by downscaling the model forecasts to neighbourhood scales using artificial intelligence and machine-learning techniques. More examples of such successful downscaling are now being reported with applications in measuring and forecasting extreme events as well as in other sectors such as agriculture, energy, and health. Forecasts are also best downscaled for anomalies.

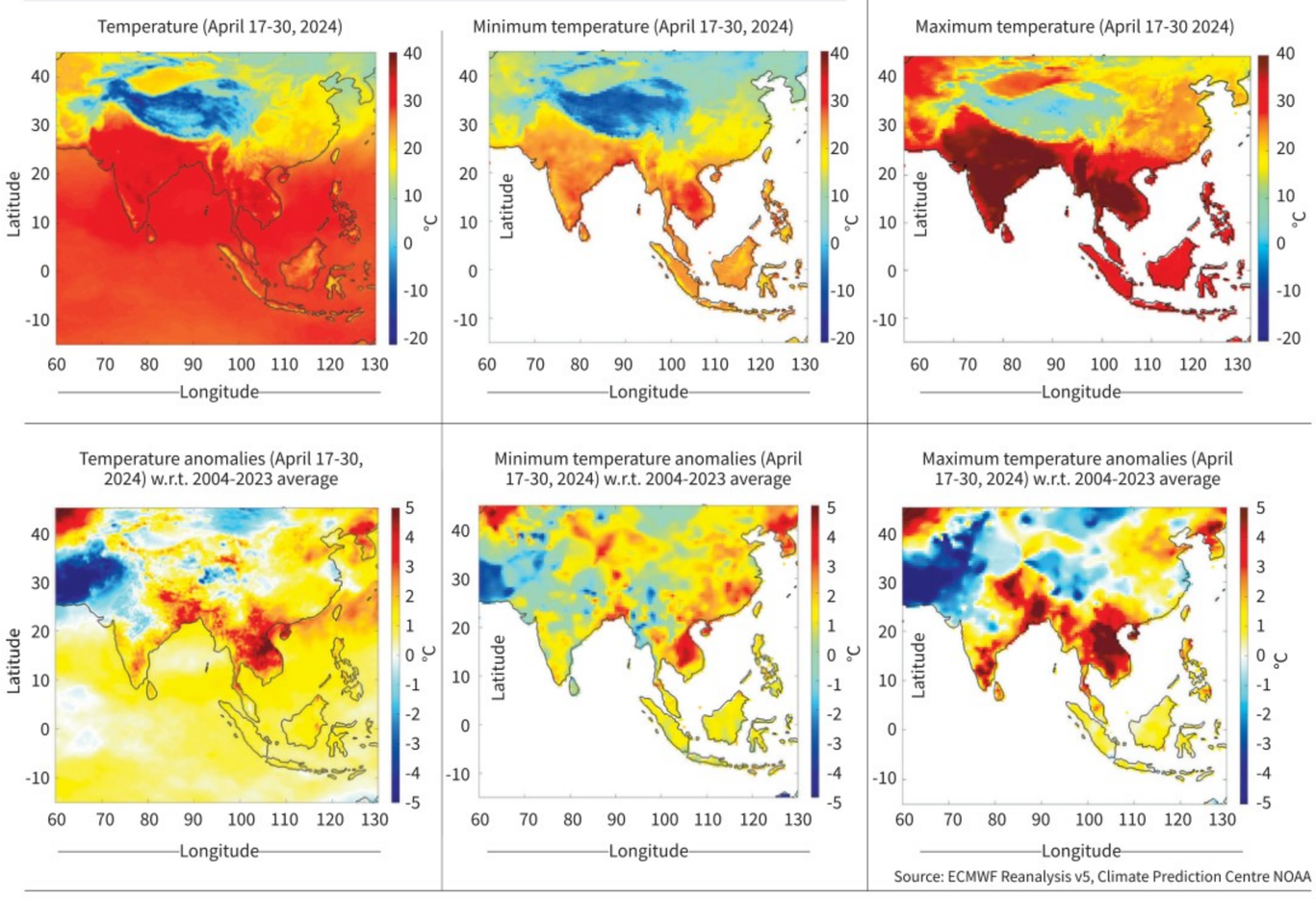
Writer is visiting professor, IIT Bombay and emeritus professor, University of Maryland.

Constructing the right heat map

These maps show the total average temperatures along with the averages of daily minimum and daily maximum temperatures. One can see that temperature anomalies maps provide a more accurate picture

Braving the heat: Boys catch fish as they cool themselves in a pond on a hot summer day in New Delhi on May 5. AFP





Source: ECMWF Reanalysis v5, Climate Prediction Centre NOAA

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Many interesting events happened on May 8, including the death of a French painter and the end of an important war. Here is a quiz on everything that happened on this day

Sindhu Nagaraj

QUESTION 1
This British biologist and natural historian was born on this day in 1926. He has presented many wildlife documentary series, including Planet Earth. Who is he?

QUESTION 2
This is the final studio album of the English rock band the Beatles, released on this day, in 1970, almost a month after the group's public break-up. Which is the album?

QUESTION 3
May 8, 1945, marks the end of World War II in Europe. What happened on May 8?

QUESTION 4
The WHO officially eradicated this infectious disease on May 8, 1980. This is also the only human disease to have been eradicated to date. Which is it?

QUESTION 5
This carbonated drink was introduced on this day in 1886. Developed by American pharmacist John Pemberton, this was marketed and sold as a patent medicine, with Pemberton claiming it cures many diseases. Which is this drink?

QUESTION 6
World Red Cross Day is annually observed on May 8 every year. What is it also known as? Why was this date chosen to observe this day?

Visual question:
Identify this painting by the painter who died on this day in 1903. This painting became the world's third-most expensive artwork when its owner sold it privately in 2014.

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. This constituency in Gujarat was host to one of the most pivotal "satyagrahas" against the British government and was led by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. **Ans: Bardoli**
2. This constituency in West Bengal was twice represented by this former President of India. **Ans: Jangipur; Pranab Mukherjee**
3. This constituency in Assam is one of only four that elected Independents in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections. **Ans: Kokrajhar; Naba Kumar Sarania was elected in 2019**
4. This person was the chairman of a commission that prepared a report that was completed in 1980 and whose recommendations were sought to be implemented by the V.P. Singh led government in 1990. **Ans: B.P. Mandal**
5. Agra was twice represented between 1999 and 2009 by this actor. **Ans: Raj Babbar**
Visual: Name this candidate. **Ans: Shahu Chhatrapati**
Early Birds: Rajmohan. V| Jyot Prakash Gulati| Sadhan Kumar Panda| Vaibhanshi Chaudhary| Debarati Kar

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

"Absolutely in the sense of yes (S. Sridevi, Udipi)."

" It is used in reply to questions. It was used in this sense in America first in the 19th century and in Britain in the 20th century.

'He is a fool'.

'Absolutely.'"

"Nubile (Velappan Nair, Kozhikode)."

" 'Nubile' originally meant 'of marriageable age or condition.' The word is used of women. It is rarely used in this sense now. Now it is used to mean 'sexually attractive.'

I saw you with a nubile woman yesterday.

'Nubile' is a formal word. There is another word 'nubilous' and it is not related to 'nubile.' 'Nubilous' means 'cloudy,' 'foggy.' It is also used figuratively to mean 'obscure/ 'vague,' 'indefinite.' This again is a formal word.

The nubile princess made some nubilous remarks."

"Alongside, alongside of (Mythili Saxena, NewDelhi)."

"Both are acceptable. Some dislike 'alongside of'. First 'alongside' was used as an adverb. It was a nautical term.

They brought the boat alongside the ship.

Later 'alongside' was used with 'of as a preposition to mean 'close to the side of,' 'next to.' Still later 'of' was dropped. 'Alongside' is more common now than 'alongside of.' But 'alongside of is not incorrect. 'Alongside of,' 'alongside' mean 'beside,' 'together or simultaneously with.'

I received your letter alongside of a paper clipping.

My novel was published alongside his novel."

"Toothsome (S. Venkateswarulu)"

" 'Toothsome' means 'delicious.'

Her preparations are toothsome.

In American English, it also means 'sexually attractive.'

'Toothy' in British English means 'having large or prominent teeth.'

He gave me his usually toothy smile.

In American English, 'toothy' has the additional meaning of 'sexually attractive.' That is, 'toothy' is also used to mean 'toothsome.' So when an American says that X is toothy, you must ask him what he means. 'Toothy' is being used in the sense of 'alluring,' 'attractive' in American English during the last 20 years or so."

Mr. T. Hanumantha Rao, Panjagutta, Hyderabad, writes: "Regarding readers' views on 'caught and bowled', may I say the following: While preparing the score sheet or tables of the game, when a batsman is out by a catch, it will be mentioned as 'caught by so and so fielder, and bowled by so and so bowler' in that order, giving credit to both. If the bowler happens to be the fielder who catches, it will be mentioned as 'caught and bowled by so and so' for brevity. For all catches, it has thus become a convention to mention the catcher's name first and later the bowler's name, though bowling is the first action followed by catching. This is what I understand about it as a cricketer."

"Thank you for your response"

Published in The Hindu on November 11, 1991.

Word of the day

Anomaly:
deviation from the normal or common order or form or rule

Synonym: unusual

Usage: *Our world is bound by the anomaly that those who produce the most wealth are the poorest.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/anomalypro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /əˈnɒm.ə.lɪ/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Are you a student with start-up dreams? Go DeepTech, say investors

According to a recent report by VC firm Ankur Capital, the total deep science tech investments in India doubled in the last three years and crossed $1 billion in the 2021-2023 period

Shilpa Elizabeth
BENGALURU

DeepTech has been making waves in the start-up ecosystem evincing investor interest increasingly.

Are you an aspiring student entrepreneur who wishes to set up your own startup? Then DeepTech may be your best bet, say investors.

"The best thing students can do is build a deep-tech enterprise. Rather than building an enterprise company, Software as a Service (SaaS) company or consumer company, focus on building deep-tech companies. There are much better chances of being successful," says Suresh Narasimha of CoCreate Ventures, a VC fund that primarily focuses on campus entrepreneurs.

Narasimha was speaking at a panel discussion on 'The Role of Deep Tech and Sustainability in Shaping Tomorrow's Innovation' at the Global Startup Summit held at IIIT-Bangalore by Oxfounders, a start-up community created by students at Oxford University.

Investments double

For some time, DeepTech - a larger umbrella term for businesses that use advanced science and technology to build solutions to complex problems - has been making waves in the start-up ecosystem evincing investor interest increasingly. According to a recent report by VC firm Ankur Capital, the total deep science tech investments in India doubled in the last three years and crossed $1 billion in the 2021-2023 period.

The capital pool available for Indian start-ups has grown over the past years. Meanwhile, more and more investors are being attracted to the deep-tech bandwagon which they feel have higher chances of success compared to other start-ups given how technology acts as a strong moat.

"Chances of success for DeepTech companies are higher than consumer-facing companies. Capital is not a constraint," says investor and mentor Harikrishnan Govindarajan, who was part of the panel.

According to him, most start-ups struggle when it comes to scaling up. As the start-up tries to acquire more clients or to expand to more geographies, it might need to customise its product/service to suit the customer or the new market. This requires money and most start-ups turn to VCs or other financing options at this point.

"The kind of money required for DeepTech is not as high as that for a consumer facing company or a SaaS company. So, the probability of success is very high. Students, therefore, have a very good chance at Deep Tech," says Govindarajan.

Panellists at the Oxfounders Global Startup Summit hosted by IIIT-Bangalore

More funds, more start-ups

While investors vouch for capital availability for DeepTech start-ups in India, the founders don't always agree. Many have pointed out that VCs more than often hesitate to open their purses due to their lack of understanding of technology and higher gestation period of DeepTech start-ups.

Akash Shukla, co-chair at Commonwealth AI Consortium and who was part of the panel reiterated the same.

The investors on the panel differed, nevertheless.

There is an increased interest from global funds in the India story

"There's a lot more capital available in India today. As an entrepreneur your chances of raising capital in India are probably the same as that in the U.S. They have larger funds and a lot more entrepreneurs eyeing that. So, a lot more capital is required there," said Mr. Narasimha.

Pointing out that funding follows a pattern he further added, "In DeepTech, if you think you need to go through 3-4 rounds of pivots before you decide the use case then funding is going to be hard. There are grants and angel investors today. It is the responsibility of the founder to ensure that with whatever money they raise, they get to a point where they at-least get their first customer."

According to him, the ability of the founder to persist as well as to maintain a good team for long term is paramount.

"The founder's ability to persist and sustain, to pivot in terms of solution and not in terms of technology, is very important."

"You also need to have a team that stays with you for long term. In a lot of DeepTech companies, they raise money and build a solution, but then they are not able to sustain team leads. Unless you are able to do all these things with the first cheque you take, then don't take that cheque is what I would suggest," he said further adding that it was also important for start-ups to choose an investor who could add value to the business and help them find the right acquirers and investors.

But how easy could it be for a student entrepreneur to raise money given their status as a student and lack of experience? Not that hard, say investors.

A fund for everyone

Ashwin Raguraman, co-founder and partner at Bharat Innovation Fund, point out that there is much more capital available today compared to a few years back and given the large number of grants and angel networks "there's a bunch of easier ways to raise the initial 1-3 million."

"Nobody discriminates based on whether you are a student or experienced. There are positives with different types of demographics," he says citing the example of BIF investing in IIT-M start-up Detect Technologies when the founder was pursuing his Masters.

Narasimha, who notes that there are funds available at all stages for a start-up in India today, seconds this.

"If you are building a DeepTech company, from day-1 to day-n, each day you should be acquirable. Any day, someone should be able to acquire you for the team or for the technology that you are planning to build, have built or deployed," he says.

Interest in India Story

According to Raguraman, there's also increased interest from global funds in the India Story. Bharat Innovation Fund is now in the process of raising its next fund.

"A lot of capital that was earlier going to China, they are now looking at other options. I won't say they are settled on India as a destination yet. But it is going to increase the amount of capital that's going to be available here," he says.

However, while there is significant capital availability today, the flip side is that the number of start-ups vying for that capital has also gone up, he remarks.

Challenges persist

That said, it's not all hunky-dory yet for the DeepTech startups. One of the persisting challenges is the nature of the Indian market itself.

"We are a solid consumer market. I don't think consumer markets need DeepTech as much as enterprise markets which are more amenable to them," says Raguraman.

According to him, for a start-up founder looking to build and refine their product, the Indian market is a very good choice as the enterprise customers here are extremely demanding.

"However, if you are thinking of volume and velocity or velocity and scale it takes a lot more time in India to scale, because the absorption capacity of enterprises is still slow. Many of them are running accelerator programmes and trying to induct start-ups into their conversations, but the real paying customers are sitting elsewhere in the world," says Raguraman, who nevertheless is optimistic that around five years down the line, the story would be different.

Co-creative infra

Yet another problem is the lack of cocreation infrastructure in India, points out Narasimha.

"In India, that layer where a CEO trusts the technology, understand it, understands its impact much better than the entrepreneur and cocreates the solution with them, is missing," he says.

An optimistic Govindarajan, however, notes in the next 10-20 years India would see bigger start-ups and unicorns coming from the DeepTech side.

ISKCON holds Gita contest

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

ISKCON, which held a value education contest based on Bhagawad Gita, organised a prize distribution ceremony at its Bengaluru centre recently.

A release said that the contest, endorsed by people including ISRO Chairman S. Somanath and Dr. Vijay Bhatkar, Chancellor of Nalanda University, was organized by ISKCON's Seshadripuram branch in Bengaluru, targeting school students from class 5 to class 10. Over 1.2 lakh students participated across 22 districts in January 2024. Each participant received a copy of the Bhagavad Gita and a workbook to facilitate the practical application of its teachings in their daily lives.

Furthermore, the top three students from each district, along with their parents, were invited to ISRO ISTRAC, Bengaluru, where they were honored with special prizes, including electric cycles and normal cycles, by the Director of ISTRAC, B.N. Ramakrishna, a release said.

Students who occupied top three positions were awarded cycles sponsored by UMEED foundation social and economic welfare.

A festival in Bengaluru that celebrates urban literature

While the core concept of City Scripts has always been a celebration of urban narratives through writing, the festival has always allowed space to include creative and interactive elements like workshops, exhibitions

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Scene from City Scripts, the annual urban writing festival of IIHS.

Urban literature is symptomatic of all the stresses people face in this century," says Pooja Sagar, who leads the Word Lab at the Indian Institute for Human Settlements (IIHS), Sadashivanagar. These could include the large impending environmental crises, issues of waste, water scarcity and rising heat, things that are in nearly everyone's minds today but do not seem to have any immediate solutions. "Writings around cities are the first to capture these tensions," says Pooja.

City-centred narratives

City Scripts, the annual urban writing festival of IIHS, the 9th edition of which will be held between May 10 and 12, is all about celebrating various city-centred narratives. "In the last nine years, the festival has become a platform to connect research and practice with the public. City Scripts helps us understand the urban better by showing its many sides: its different people, its past, its problems, and its chances to grow," says Sofia Juliet, who is part of Word Lab that hosts City Scripts and also a member of the organising team. The festival, she adds, encourages us to think of cities as more than just buildings and streets, but as lively places shaped by how people think, what they make, and how they connect. "And as cities keep changing, we will also keep evolving right along with them."

This year, the theme for the festival will be Text and Tapestry, an attempt to " look at how narratives around the city unravel like threads on a fabric, figuratively, and how these threads loop, unwind and extend across genres and themes," as Pooja puts it. Some of the sessions include the following: a conversation on Indian languages, panel discussions on Indian horror writing and detective fiction, a deep dive into the literary legacy of Goa, an exploration of Bengaluru's textile tradition and an examination of how Marquez's body of work can be viewed through the lens of our present-day realities. "Art and Literature pull at the strings of a social fabric. By putting together panels which at a broad level try to create a thread about what this means for South Asia, and at a local level, how this holds, such as the panel on Goan literature, we hope to see some threads of continuity which we may have missed," says Pooja.

Workshops and exhibitions

While the core concept of City Scripts has always been a celebration of urban narratives through writing, the festival has always allowed space to include creative and interactive elements like workshops, exhibitions, and performances that explore urban issues from diverse perspectives, says Sofia. In addition to the various panel discussions, workshops on spinning, typography and storytelling will be held for adults and children. Several art exhibitions, which include a documentary project on Bengaluru's textile industry, nature illustrations capturing its biodiversity, a textile tapestry called Patchwork City and a postcard exhibition that delves into the city's past, will also be part of the festival.

"We are bringing in voices from all walks of urban life—community members, artists, academics, activists—to make sure we are getting a real picture of what is happening in the urban," she says.

The 9th edition of City Scripts will be held at the Indian Institute for Human Settlements (IIHS), Sadashivanagar between May 10 and 12.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO MAY 8, 1974

Slow Progress of Minor Irrigation Works Criticised

Bangalore, May 7: The slow progress of minor irrigation and rural communication works in the State was pinpointed by members during the inconclusive debate on the demands relating to public works and other allied heads in the State Assembly to-day. Mr. H.N. Nanje Gowda (Cong), former Minister of State for Major Irrigation, suggested that the PWD cell in the State Vigilance Commission should be detached from the Public Works Department for ensuring its independent functioning. Other points made during the debate included the establishment of thermal and atomic power plants, exploitation of underground water potential and creation of a development board for the plans.

The appointment of a chief engineer as the Managing Director of the Power Corporation was also suggested.

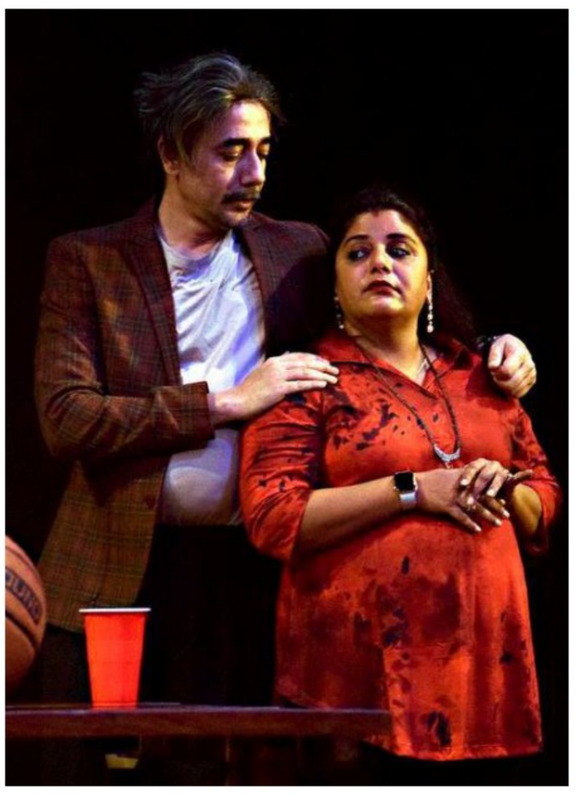
Govt. Decision to Purchase Bangalore Palace

Bangalore: May 7. The Karnataka Government has decided to purchase the Bangalore Palace and a portion of 400 acres of land belonging to it. Announcing this in the State Assembly to-day, the Chief Minister, Mr. D. Devaraj Urs said since the acquisition of the palace would involve crores of rupees, the Government was considering whether it would be possible for the City Improvement Trust Board (CITB) to acquire it. Whether the money to the former ruler of Mysore had to be paid in annuity or lump sum was being considered.

Of reunions and nostalgia

Director Akarsh Khurana says *This Time*, to be staged in Bengaluru on May 9 and 10, revolves around the concept of time

On winged feet Akarsh Khurana and stills from the play. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



Shilpa Anandraj

Akvarious Productions, Mumbai, brings *This Time* to Bengaluru. Written and directed by Akarsh Khurana, the nostalgic comedy is the troupe's 80th play. Akarsh is the founder of the 24-year-old Akvarious Productions and is the son of the veteran theatre and cinema actor Akash Khurana.

Akvarious has staged plays in every genre and language, with some nominated for the Mahindra Excellence in Theatre Awards. Akarsh is also a film director, who has written screenplays for films such as *Krrish* besides directing web sketches, cineplays, and a television movie (*Real FM*).

The play is predominantly in English with a fair amount of Hindi, says Akarsh over phone from Mumbai. "It's our latest production and we staged it on November 23 in Mumbai. Bengaluru is the first city we are travelling to with this play. *This Time* is set at a college reunion, where the protagonists meet after almost two decades."

Things between the protagonists, who were in a relationship had not ended well, says Akarsh. "They are both not looking forward to seeing the other. They go to the reunion thinking the other is not coming. The play revolves around these two people walking down memory lane, ending up with a larger theme of nostalgia, how things and people change with time."

This Time, Akarsh says is also about growing up. "You end up having problems whether you are 18 or 40. No matter what age you are at, you are always coming of age."

The director has made films such as *Karwaan* and *Rashmi Rocket* and has co-written two seasons of *Tripling*. Last year, he directed *Jugaadistan* for Lionsgate Play and the second season of *Mismatched* for Netflix, which is currently in production for Season 3.

The onset of mid-life crisis, the pros and cons of nostalgia and the very concept of time are the other themes *This Time* deals with, Akarsh says.

"Time changes things and is a powerful force in itself. That is depicted through the characters. For instance, there is a contrast in the two principal characters, with one being a futurologist, and the other a museum curator who has dedicated her life to the study of the past."

Despite working in films, Akarsh says he has been doing theatre for longer and it is his happy place and first love. "It is something that will continue irrespective of whatever I am doing. Theatre has also been instrumental in preparing me for everything else that I have done."

> You end up having problems whether you are 18 or 40. No matter what age you are at, you are always coming of age.
>
> **AKARSH KHURANA**
> Founder,
> Akvarious Theatre Company

Akarsh has collaborated with international playwrights, and has directed the works by Ayub Khan-Din (*Rafta Rafta*), David Harrower (*Blackbird*), Hassan Abdulrazzak (*Baghdad Wedding*), Marius von Mayenurg (*The Ugly One*), Michael Puzzo (*The Dirty Talk*), and most recently, a stage adaptation of Khaled Hosseini's *The Kite Runner*.

Talking to people, Akarsh says, increases the onus on writing and performances. "With talented actors, I knew I could push the limits of characterisation and conversation. Watching the characters come to life and the actors taking ownership of their roles has been a truly rewarding experience."

Living in Mumbai, Akarsh says, there are challenges to find a conducive space to rehearse and perform. "There are expenses involved in running a theatre company. Despite these problems, the theater hub in Mumbai is still great and gives you access to the world of theatre and cinema, giving you that added edge. Our endeavour is to travel with our plays. We come to Bengaluru often, including 40 shows of *Interview* and also travel to Delhi and Pune with our plays."

Being the son of a famous father, Akarsh says, has never had negative connotations. "Neither have I felt the need to try and break away from his identity. We have similar sensibilities on a lot of things and work together often. He was clear from the beginning that he would not do any favours for me."

"What worked for me was my exposure to the world of cinema and theatre because of him. Watching him at work has made his fame less intimidating for me. When it comes to work, he allows me to find my voice and has never imposed his ideas and concepts."

The cast in *This Time* features Adhaar Khurana, Garima Yajnik, Kshitee Jog, Mallika Singh, Mantra, and Siddharth Kumar.

This Time will be staged on May 9 (7.30pm) and 10 (3.30pm and 7.30pm) at Ranga Shankara. Tickets on BookMyShow. Open to those aged 16 years and above.

CITYBEATS

Best of two worlds

MAY 12
This dance recital will be an amalgamation of classical Odissi and Mohiniyattam dance forms. It will be performed by Rekha Raju and Debashish Patnaik, both of whom are winners of Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar Award.
At 6pm, at Shoonya Center for Art and Somatic Practices, Sudhama Nagar.
Call 9840097045.

Fur-ever special

ONGOING
Harleys Corner has come up with a range of treats and offers for your furry friends as part of Mother's Day celebrations. Choose from among the goulash (a hearty meal for young dogs), grrissotto or veggie delight. These treats are said to be made with human-grade ingredients, and prices start at ₹200.
Available on harleyscorner.com

Right bite

ONGOING
Caffe Allora has opened its sixth outlet in Bengaluru. The menu comes with crafted pizzas and pastas as well as an array of risottos and antipasti. The pizzas come in the options of two toppings side-by-side, napoli (Neapolitan) pizzas. These can be downed with a range of coffees, lemonades, artisanal juices or wines.
At Phoenix Mall of Asia.

Korean and Japanese fare come to the city

EATING OUT

Priyamedha Dutta

Watching a good K-drama or an anime can sometimes turn into a mouthwatering experience, especially watching the actors gorge on Korean fried chicken or a piping hot bowl of Japanese katsu curry. These shows take you on a virtual food tour through the streets of Korea or eating at a *yatai* (movable food cart) in some Japanese alleyway.

Eye opener Tiger Yaki adds a new range to culinary experiences. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Tiger Yaki
Hits: Chicken Gyoza
Misses: Korean corn dog
Price for two: ₹500

Tiger Yaki, a new entrant in Bengaluru's fast-food culture may help satisfy your craving for Japanese or Korean street food. Located on St. Marks Road, the brand was initially founded by Chef Rahul Vasandani and Karan Sharma in a quaint 375-square-foot outlet in Pali Hill, Bandra, Mumbai. Since its opening, it has swiftly become a culinary sensation associating itself with street-style Korean and Japanese food.

The success of the brand in Mumbai prompted the Bengaluru outlet, brought to the city by ASAR Hospitality co-founded by Mohammed Aseem, Rohit Golia, Aryan Menon, and Sarfaraz Nawas.

With both indoor and outdoor sitting spaces, the décor has been kept minimal, with walls adorned with neon lights and the brand's signature red dominating the colour palette of the space.

We started with their classic chicken gyoza. This popular Japanese street food pan-seared dumpling stuffed with juicy chicken filling hits all the flavour notes with the crispy chilly bits on top giving a real *umami* flavour.

We then tried the Korean corn dog, while it did have the classic cheese pull, it was on the bland side the Mozzarella stick inside was hard to chew and lacked crunch in the outer layer.

Apart from food, they also have an array of refreshing non-alcoholic beverages like kombucha and iced tea. We tried their lemon ginger kombucha and sweet lime iced tea, a must-try at Tiger Yaki, and a perfect respite in this Bengaluru heat.

We ended our meal with a bowl of basil-spiced chicken.

The hearty portion of braised chicken with basil and oyster sauce felt like comfort in a bowl, advisable only if you have a good heat tolerance. Places like Tiger Yaki, have become symbolic to city's changing food culture especially people's acceptability to global cuisine.

Praveen Sudevan

Imagine a world where Franz Kafka's absurdism intersects with modern India's vibrant chaos. A world where an innocent man fights for justice against a system designed to silence him. This is the world of *Innocence*, a black comedy written and directed by Anmol Vellani, premiering in Bengaluru on May 10.

Innocence draws inspiration from Kafka's *The Trial*, transposing its timeless struggle for justice to the realities of 21st-century India. As Anmol explains, "It's an adaptation in two ways: first, by transposing the story to contemporary India, and second, by translating it from a novel to a theatrical performance."

The play tells the story of an unnamed protagonist who finds himself inexplicably accused of a crime whose nature remains shrouded in mystery. As he navigates a labyrinthine legal system, his unwavering insistence on his innocence leads him down a path of despair and isolation.

There are inherent difficulties in adapting Kafka's work, Anmol acknowledges. " *The Trial* relies heavily on long, descriptive passages to create dread and terror, which are difficult to translate directly onto the stage with minimal dialogue." His task was transforming it into scenes filled with interaction, conflict, and dramatic tension.

Crime and punishment Stills from The Trial. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

A Kafkaesque take on modern Indian justice

Preserving the core themes and character dynamics was paramount for Anmol and black comedy emerged as the answer.

"It allowed characters to behave normally, mirroring Kafka's prose while highlighting the underlying abnormality of their situation. The black humour aligns perfectly with what Kafka conveys in the novel," Anmol explains.

Anmol carefully incorporates references to contemporary Indian political events, including the questionable electoral bonds scheme.

"The play's political elements are quite explicit," says the director. The dialogue directly references existing issues in the country, albeit in a humorous way.

"While it doesn't delve deeply into the underlying issues, it makes clear references to various events, including the infamous case of a judge's sexual misconduct that led to his recusal from the Indian judiciary. The play doesn't explicitly name individuals. However, these references are clear and impactful for those familiar with recent events in India."

At a time when creators in mainstream cinema and OTT platforms face restrictions, Anmol is hardly worried about referring to contemporary socio-political events.

"The smaller audience size inherent to theatre offers certain advantages," he says, "When the audience is large, the government gets worried because then you have a real influence. I can function under the radar with a smaller audience and forget about the political implications altogether."

This freedom allows for a more nuanced and potentially critical exploration of sensitive themes, making *Innocence* a potentially thought-provoking production.

'Innocence', presented by Toto Funds the Arts, will be staged at Goethe-Institut/Max Mueller Bhavan Bangalore from May 10 to 12 at 7pm. Tickets on bookmyshow.com.

Kerala issues alert against West Nile fever

Alert sounded against mosquito-borne viral infection after one death and around eight cases were reported from Kozhikode, Malappuram and Thrissur districts in recent days; Health Minister says there is no need to worry; officials have been told to intensify pre-monsoon cleaning drive

The Hindu Bureau
KOZHIKODE

The Kerala government issued an alert in the State on Tuesday against West Nile fever, a mosquito-borne viral infection, after one death and eight cases were reported from Kozhikode, Malappuram and Thrissur districts in recent days.

According to official sources, the death of a 79-year-old man from Vadanappally in Thrissur on May 3 has been attributed to the infection. Five cases have so far been reported in Kozhikode. There are two suspected cases in Malappuram too.

Kozhikode Collector Snehil Kumar Singh told mediapersons on Tuesday evening that four of the five infected persons had been discharged from the Government Medical College Hospital. One person is still under treatment.

Three of them are natives of Kozhikode city and one each from Koodaranhi and Nanminda. Another suspected patient has been admitted to a private hospital, Mr. Singh added.

Minister's statement

A statement from Health Minister Veena George said the infection had been reported from various districts in the State since 2011 and there was no reason to worry. District Medical Officers have been told to intensify pre-monsoon cleaning drives in coordination with the Department of Local Self-Government and the respective district administration, she added.

Infectious disease: The Kozhikode Collector says that four infected persons have been discharged from hospital. FILE PHOTO

The infection was confirmed after samples of blood and cerebrospinal fluid of suspected patients were examined at the Virus Research and Diagnostic Lab attached to the medical college hospital. They were later sent to the National Institute of Virology, Pune, for official confirmation.

Symptoms of fever

Symptoms of the infection include high fever, headache, neck stiffness, disorientation, stupor, coma, tremors, convulsions, muscle weakness, and paralysis.

Most of the symptoms are similar to that of Japanese encephalitis. However, 80% of the patients need not show any symptoms.

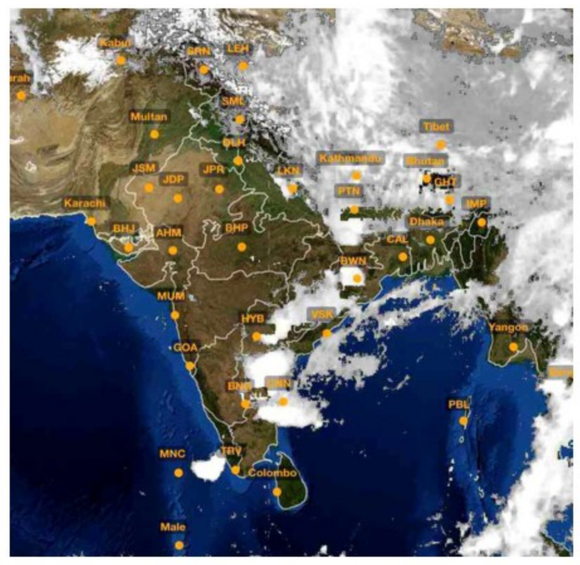
The disease is spread by the Culex species of mosquitoes. As per the World Health Organization (WHO), human infection is most often the result of bites from the infected mosquitoes. This happens when they feed on infected birds, which circulate the virus in their blood for a few days.

There has been no human-to-human transmission so far.

The WHO says that the treatment is supportive for patients with neuro-invasive West Nile virus, often involving hospitalisation, intravenous fluids, respiratory support, and prevention of secondary infections. No vaccine is available for humans.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Wednesday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Odisha, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam, Rayalaseema, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala, Mahe and south interior Karnataka. Heat wave conditions likely to prevail in isolated pockets over Rajasthan, west Madhya Pradesh and north interior Karnataka

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	7	34.4	20.6	Kozhikode	—	38.1	29.9
Ahmedabad	—	43.3	28.5	Kurnool	16	43.3	27.3
Aizawl	14	25.8	18.1	Lucknow	—	36.8	27.2
Allahabad	—	38.4	27.8	Madurai	—	41.7	29.2
Bengaluru	19	33.8	21.3	Mangaluru	—	34.7	27.9
Bhopal	—	42.4	26.6	Mumbai	—	33.7	26.8
Bhubaneswar	4.2	32.5	24.5	Mysuru	2	38.5	—
Chandigarh	—	39.9	23.6	New Delhi	—	42.0	24.2
Chennai	—	38.6	29.4	Patna	—	33.0	23.4
Coimbatore	—	38.0	25.0	Port Blair	—	34.4	27.0
Dehradun	—	36.9	21.1	Puducherry	—	36.2	30.0
Gangtok	14	18.5	13.6	Pune	—	40.9	24.8
Goa	—	34.2	26.2	Raipur	—	38.9	28.3
Guwahati	11	26.0	20.2	Ranchi	—	34.0	21.8
Hubballi	—	40.0	23.0	Shillong	6	20.0	12.9
Hyderabad	—	40.4	29.3	Shimla	—	29.3	17.6
Imphal	6	28.7	15.3	Srinagar	—	29.2	10.5
Jaipur	—	44.1	29.2	Thiruvananthapuram	—	37.3	27.4
Kochi	—	34.8	28.4	Tiruchi	—	42.1	29.4
Kohima	—	18.4	12.8	Vijayawada	—	37.9	30.0
Kolkata	49.2	33.8	20.4	Visakhapatnam	26	30.2	23.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	3	31	.24	164	154	
Bengaluru	8	17	.52	42	53	
Chennai	5	9	.98	33	29	
Delhi	.22	88	.59	409	393	
Hyderabad	3	30	.37	58	101	
Kolkata	.11	.23	.23	31	38	
Lucknow	5	.65	.38	329	180	
Mumbai	.34	104	.71	30	64	
Pune	101	129	116	70	59	
Visakhapatnam	.11	.37	.20	34	68	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 340 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Madikeri, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 32

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Ancient structures across T.N. to get a new lease of life

K. Lakshmi
CHENNAI

Some ancient buildings in Tamil Nadu that are in a derelict state may get a new lease of life soon as the Public Works Department (PWD) has submitted a project to renovate them.

The Building Centre and Conservation Division - the special wing formed to conserve heritage structures - is awaiting the State government's nod for the detailed project report for restoring neglected historical structures.

The division plans to start six works worth about ₹67 crore within two months of receiving the approval. Officials of the PWD said that the Kalyana Mahal Chathiram in Thiruvaiyaru; Sivaji Rajah Bhonsle building in Thanjavur palace; Muthammal Chathiram, Orathanadu in Thanjavur; portion of Directorate of Boilers office, Chepauk complex in Chennai; Clock tower dome, Anna University, Chennai and 125-year-old Kodumudi travellers' bungalow, Erode; are the structures where restoration works would be taken up.

Needs restoration: Muthammal Chathiram in Orathanadu, constructed in 1802, has suffered nearly 75% to 80% damage.

The division had sought a consultant architect to study the condition of the structures to prepare the detailed project report. Muthammal Chathiram in Orathanadu, built in 1802, has suffered nearly 75% to 80% damage due to ageing. Located 25 km from Thanjavur, the structure was built by King Serfoji II in the name of queen Muthammal.

Spread over 56,953 sq.ft., the Chathiram served as a place for pilgrims, and for promoting social welfare and women's education.

It was recently announced as a monument by the State Archaeology Department, and continues to be a tourist attraction. The structure is an amalgamation of Maratha, Chola, Nayak and the British architecture. Maratha-style Sudhai works are found on parapet walls, windows' arch and pillars.

Similarly, the Kalyana Mahal in Thiruvaiyaru that was initially built as a queen's chamber by the Marathas of Thanjavur between 1798 and 1832 was used as a resting place later.

However, it has been poorly maintained and remains dilapidated. The ₹18-crore project would be the first major renovation work carried out here, the officials said.

Karnataka CM arrives in the Nilgiris

The Hindu Bureau
UDHAGAMANDALAM

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah arrived in The Nilgiris by helicopter on Tuesday afternoon.

Till May 11

Mr. Siddaramaiah proceeded to a luxury hotel in Udhagamandalam by road, and is expected to stay in the Nilgiris till May 11.

Police officers said after a gruelling season of campaigning, the Karnataka Chief Minister will be recuperating in the Nilgiris for the next few days.

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Associate Professor / Assistant Professor in Apollo Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences	Ph.D in Pharmacy, Master's degree in Pharmacy (M.Pharm.) with specialization in Pharmaceutical Chemistry / Pharmaceutics / Pharmacology & First Class B.Pharma. Other service conditions as per PCI Norms
Professor / Associate / Assistant Professor in School of Management	Ph.D in Health Systems / Hospital Administration / Health Administration & MBA Hospital Administration / Master of Hospital Administration / Master of Health Administration. Other service conditions as per AICTE Norms
Lecturer in Physician Assistant, Occupational Therapy & Respiratory Therapy School of Health Sciences	M.Sc in Physician Assistant/ Occupational Therapy / Respiratory Therapy
Professor / Associate / Assistant Professor in Psychology, School of Health Sciences	Ph.D in Clinical Psychology & MA / M.Sc. in clinical Psychology Other service conditions as per UGC Norms
Professor / Associate / Assistant Professor in Physiotherapy, School of Allied Health Sciences	Ph.D in Physiotherapy, MPT with Specialisation in Orthopedics / Neurology & BPT . Other service conditions as per UGC Norms

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DOCUMENTS LOST

I, Lakshmi Prasad W/o Late V.N. Prasad, R/@ No.10/1, 15th Cross, Shankarnag Road, Near Mahalakshmi Temple, Domlur, Bangalore-560071 do hereby solmenly declare that, my husband Late V.N. Prasad had acquired Site No.37, ITI Notified Area Katha No.69/1/7/1/37, situated at Sonnathammanahalli @ T.C. Palya, K.R. Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, measuring East to West:43 Feet and North to South:30 Feet through sale deed. This Original Sale Deed was registered as No.618/1991-92, dated 02.05.1991, Book-1, Volume No.290, pages from 154 to 157 at Office of the Sub-Registrar, K.R. Puram, Bangalore. Few days back I have lost Original Sale Deed pertaining to this property. I have also raised a complaint with K.R. Puram Police on 04.05.2024 and have obtained LRN:1038783/2024. I further state that the above given facts are true and correct to my knowledge vide affidavit dated 03.05.2024 sworn to Notary G. Rajendra.

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA AT BENGALURU
FORM No. 19
NOTICE TO THE RESPONDENT No. 1 AND 2, VIDE COURT ORDER DATED: 24/04/2024
CMP No. 129/2023
[VIDEO CONFERENCING / PHYSICAL HEARING]
MRS. SALMA KHATOON
W/o. Mr. S.M. Pasha ...PETITIONER/S
[Sri. MOHAMMAD NIYAZ S., Advocate for the Petitioner]
-/VS/-
M/S. A.J. DEVELOPERS, A Partnership Concern Represented by its Partners and Another
...RESPONDENT/S
To, RESPONDENT No.1 & 2
R1. M/S. A.J. DEVELOPERS, A Partnership Concern Having its Office at No. 59, 401, 4th Floor, A.J. Muneer Enclave, 1st Cross, Siddharamappa Garden, St. Thomas Town Post, Lingarajapuram, Bangalore - 560 084. Represented by its Partners
R2. MR. AJMAL SHAIK,
Aged about 47 years, S/o. S.A. Ahmed
BOTH ARE RESIDING AT No. 59, 401, 4th Floor, A.J. Muneer Enclave, 1st Cross, Siddharamappa Garden, St. Thomas Town Post, Lingarajapuram, Bangalore - 560 084. ...RESPONDENT/S
Whereas the above named Petitioner has filed a Petition on this Court Under Section 11(6) of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996.
Emergent Notice is hereby given to you to appear in this Court in person or through an Advocate duly instructed or through some one authorized by law to act for you, in the CMP No. 129/2023 on 12/06/2024 at 10:30 AM in case you intend to contest the Petition. If you fail to appear, the petition will be dealt with, heard and decided in your absence.
Issued under my hand and the seal of the Court, this the 24th Day of April 2024.
BY ORDER OF THE COURT
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

E-pass system kicks off in Nilgiris and Kodaikanal

The Hindu Bureau
UDHAGAMANDALAM/ DINDIGUL

The e-pass system for vehicles entering Kodaikanal and the Nilgiris came into effect on Tuesday.

In Kodaikanal, officials were deployed at the municipality toll plaza to check for e-passes. According to an official, there was no ceiling on the number of vehicles allowed into the hill station this summer.

However, e-pass was mandatory till June 30, in accordance with a directive of the Madras High Court to keep a tab on the number of vehicles and people entering the hill station.

The local vehicles in Kodaikanal that are identified by the Regional Transport Office (RTO) do not require e-passes. The RTO has also made efforts to issue passes to all regular vehicles entering Kodaikanal to supply essential goods.

Tourists intending to visit the hill station need to apply for e-passes at epass.tnega.org. Tourists visiting the Nilgiris from May 7 to June 30 will have to apply for the e-pass.

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TENDER NOTICE No. CN/01/2024 Dated : 02-05-2024
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the supply of following item.

Tender No.	Description in Brief	Qty.
95245067	Design, manufacture, supply, installation, testing, commissioning and maintenance of heavy-duty elevator with machine room and gear less type 6 persons / 408kg capacity, 1.25m/s, etc.	3 Sets

Last date for submission of bids: Upto 10:30 Hrs on 22-05-2024
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Chief Materials Manager, Construction
Bengaluru Cantonment
PUB/55/AAS/PRB/SWR/2024-25
South Western Railway - SWR | southwesternrailway_swr | SWRRLY | southwesternrailway | SWRRLY

M BG-BGE

Searching for a wave

The campaign is degenerating into hate speeches and false accusations

In the third round of polling for the 18th Lok Sabha on Tuesday, over 1,300 candidates were in the fray in 93 Lok Sabha constituencies across 12 States and Union Territories. With this phase, voting is complete in more than half of the constituencies – 283 out of 543 seats. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) candidate in Surat, Gujarat, was declared elected unopposed, after all his opponents, including the Congress candidate, withdrew under dubious circumstances. The next four phases of the general election will be on May 13, 20, and 25 and June 1. Counting is scheduled for June 4. Of the 93 seats on Tuesday, 71 were won in 2019 by BJP candidates, while four went to the Congress. In Gujarat, the BJP had won all 26 seats in the last two elections. One of the most watched battles was in Baramati, Maharashtra, between veteran Nationalist Congress Party leader Sharad Pawar's daughter Supriya Sule and Sunetra Pawar, wife of his estranged nephew and Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar. The first two phases had registered a dip in voter turnout, compared to 2019, and the Opposition had questioned the inordinate delay by the Election Commission of India in the publication of the cumulative figures.

The BJP and the Congress-led alliance have crossed swords over the issue of reservation, offering their respective, conflicting interpretations of constitutionalism in the process. The Opposition has accused the BJP of a conspiracy to end reservation by amending the Constitution, while offering to amend the Constitution to remove the 50% ceiling on reservation. Unused to being on the defensive, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has alleged a conspiracy by the Congress and its partners to give away the reservation meant for Hindu subalterns to Muslims. While the Congress and its partners are aiming at a Hindu subaltern consolidation against the BJP in their favour, the ruling BJP's focus is on consolidating its Hindu base by constantly targeting Muslims. Serious charges of sexual crimes against Prajwal Revanna, the grandson of former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda, have put the BJP on the defensive. Mr. Gowda's Janata Dal (Secular) and the BJP are allies in Karnataka where the BJP had won 25 of 28 seats in 2019. The allegations against Mr. Prajwal, a sitting JD(S) MP, raise serious questions about the functioning of the JD(S). The Congress is counting on women voters of the State consolidating behind it. With no overwhelming wave of any kind apparent, the principal rivals are struggling to create one in their favour, often with means less than honourable.

Plastic solution

Plastic pollution cannot stop by treaties, without investment in alternatives

The Global Plastics Treaty, an ambitious initiative involving at least 175 United Nations member nations to eliminate the use of plastics, concluded its fourth round of negotiations recently. The goal is to finalise a legal document by the end of 2024 with timelines by when countries must agree to curb plastic production, eliminate its uses that create wastage, ban certain chemicals used in its production and set targets for recycling. Unfortunately, an agreement is not in sight. There is yet another round of negotiations scheduled in Busan, South Korea this November. The primary hurdles are economic. Oil producing and refining countries such as Saudi Arabia, the United States, Russia, India and Iran are reluctant about hard deadlines to eliminate plastic production. A coalition of African countries, supported by several European nations, is in favour of a year, around 2040, to ensure that a timeline for reduction is in effect. There is also disagreement on whether contentious elements in the treaty should be decided on by a vote or consensus – the latter implying that every country has a veto. India's opinion, other than being uncomfortable with binding targets, is that a legally binding instrument to end the plastic pollution must also address "... availability, accessibility, affordability of alternatives including cost implications and specifying arrangements... for capacity building and technical assistance, technology transfer, and financial assistance". This language – and India is not the only proponent – is reminiscent of the principle of 'common but differentiated responsibility' enshrined in climate talks. Under this, countries must have a common target but those more privileged must support others and take on stricter targets themselves.

In the year that the plastics treaty was mooted, in 2022, India brought into effect the Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules (2021) that banned 19 categories of "single-use" plastics. It, however, does not include plastic bottles – even those less than 200 ml – and multi-layered packaging boxes (as in milk cartons). Moreover, even the ban on single-use plastic items is not uniformly enforced nationally, with several outlets continuing to retail these goods. The global distribution of the plastic pollution is unequal with Brazil, China, India and the U.S. responsible for 60% of plastic waste, according to a report by the non-profit EA Earth Action. Much like how transitioning away from fossil fuel invites its own challenges, plastic pollution cannot be ended by merely signing treaties. There needs to be much greater investment in alternative products and making them affordable before realistic targets are decided upon.

A dignified peaceful passing is everyone's right

Dr. M.R. Rajagopal

is the founder-chairman emeritus of Pallium India and the author of the book 'Walk with the weary.'

Dr. Parth Sharma

is a physician, researcher, and founding editor of Nivarana, a public health information and advocacy organisation

Most Indian families seem to be unprepared 'when the time comes'

Ronald Reagan, the 40th President of the United States of America, died in 2004 at the age of 93 at his home surrounded by his family. He had dementia which he lived with for nine years. His wife, Nancy Reagan, called his last moments of a peaceful death "the greatest gift" he could have given her. Compare this with the way India's former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee died in 2018, nine years after a stroke that had left him non-ambulant. The last 35 days of his life were spent in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences in New Delhi. He died on artificial life support systems.

Death is inevitable, the one certainty in life. When the time comes, and if you have an incurable disease, how would you like to go? Would you prefer your bed in your home, with your loved ones around you? Or would you prefer being all alone in an intensive care unit (ICU) with a tube in every orifice, hooked to machines that measure the functioning of every vital organ in your body, with each malfunctioning organ supported artificially?

In the West and India

The stories of Ronald Reagan and A.B. Vajpayee follow a certain pattern each. In Euro-American countries, more and more people are now documenting advance medical directives (living will) to express the way they would like to die. In these countries, terminally-ill people are allowed to die a natural death by taking them off life support systems if the likelihood of a return to a reasonable quality of life is low.

In a study published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* in 2019, C.L. Sprung and colleagues showed that in European ICUs, people died while on life-support systems only in 10.3% of such cases. In the remaining cases, such artificial support measures were withheld or withdrawn and replaced by palliative care to permit death with some dignity.

Now let us compare this with what happens in India. In an editorial, Dr. Raj K. Mani, former president of the Indian Society of Critical Care Medicine, shows the cruel contrast in Indian ICUs. In India, approximately 70% of patients with incurable critical illness die on life support systems – alone in the ICU; the families outside in a crowded area are left to deal with hefty hospital bills, with no time to grieve.

What about the other 30%? To quote Dr. Raj K. Mani, these deaths were "mediated through the so-called Left Against Medical Advice/Discharged Against Medical Advice (LAMA/DAMA)" (an ethically unjustifiable practice representing unplanned treatment limitations without a formal shift to palliative care). The suffering that is meted out to the patient and family (physically, socially, mentally, and spiritually) with such a practice is unimaginable. This, however, starkly differs from what people desire. In a survey of nearly 3,500 people in Pune, 83% of the people reported their preferred place of death to be their home.

ICU routinisation, lack of legal clarity

Why do such practices continue? Perhaps it is a mistaken belief that the doctor must prolong life by delaying death at all costs by hours or days even when the futility of treatment is clear. However, no ethical principle says that doctors have such a duty. In India, the official definition of the 'duty of care' of a health-care provider as per the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) is "to mitigate suffering. To cure sometimes, relieve often and to comfort always" with no exception to this rule. But this document gathers dust in obscure corners of medical college libraries, with practice across ICUs in India being vastly different.

This practice of routinisation of intensive care deaths is barely a quarter of a century old. Before that, ICUs were for people with salvageable health issues. Now, a good chunk of the society seems to have come to accept ICU deaths as normal. The nuclearisation of families could be a reason as death is no longer familiar to the average person. The consequence: families are unable to think about death, and unable to make the right decisions in the face of a major health issue. A 2022 Report of *The Lancet* Commission on the Value of Death points out that modern society has become death-illiterate. It calls for 'death literacy' which brings 'death back to life'. A society that is brave enough to discuss death and dying among friends and family is likely to leave people empowered to cross that difficult bridge when they come to it.

The lack of legal clarity is also a contributing factor. India has no law covering end-of-life care. In its absence, a Supreme Court of India verdict of 2023 remains valid. According to this, any advance medical directive left by a mentally competent person will be valid and binding on health-care professionals. The Court also ratifies the withdrawal of life support in the context of futility. The process stipulated by this verdict is still a little complicated; but more than that, the lack of awareness about it amongst the public and professionals is the bigger barrier.

The unfortunate use of the phrase "passive euthanasia" adds to the confusion. According to the ICMR document referred to above, this is a misnomer. Euthanasia involves killing even if the intentions are good; therefore, euthanasia cannot be passive. Withholding or withdrawing artificial life support in the face of the futility of treatment involves no act of killing; it only allows natural death.

On palliative care and a living will

World Health Day (April 7) has passed and the theme for 2024 was "My health, my right". The World Health Organization officially defines health as "physical, social and mental well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity". On March 7, 2024, in response to a public interest litigation, a three-member Bench of the Supreme Court chaired by the Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud observed that the right to health includes the right to palliative care. Let us hope that this results in a rational system in place to allow everyone to live with some dignity during the last few days and to allow them to go in peace.

When the time comes, none of us will have the power to fight for our rights. Unless the immediate family concurs with our desire for a peaceful death, we will have no way of exercising our rights. Therefore, it would be good to protect ourselves by preparing a living will, getting it witnessed and countersigned by a gazetted officer, and discussing the matter with the immediate family.

(A sample living will is available at https://palliumindia.org/2023/04/living-will-and-attorney-authorisation. It can be customised according to personal choices and wishes.)

Rules for a new dawn for the Indian legal industry

Arun Chawla

is Director General, Indian Council of Arbitration

As a liberalisation project, there should be careful optimism about the Bar Council of India Rules

India's tryst with globalisation began in 1991, when the country liberalised its economy. Since then, few sectors have remained as insulated from global practices as the Indian legal industry. At one level, this is understandable given the suitability of Indian qualified lawyers, or advocates, for applying Indian laws in accord with the country's socio-economic values. However, as India increasingly becomes a leading hub for cross-border commerce, the globalisation of the Indian legal industry becomes inevitable. After years of consultations, the Bar Council of India has also embraced this reality.

Globalisation refers to the range of forces sweeping the world, unhindered by geographical boundaries, which seek to replace protectionist tendencies with a sense of universalism and synchronisation. The broader goal is to craft an ecosystem in which actors, including lawyers, can interact with one another harmoniously and without significant constraints. It is with this spirit that the Bar Council of India had notified the "Rules for Registration and Regulation of Foreign Lawyers and Foreign Law Firms in India, 2022" in early 2023 (BCI Rules), allowing foreign lawyers to set up their offices in India for some limited purposes. Indeed, the objects and reasons of the BCI Rules consciously note that "the world is becoming a global village" and that "the legal profession in India has to rise to the occasion".

A greater role for foreign lawyers

To summarise the nuanced regulatory framework prescribed by the BCI Rules is challenging. Yet, at the risk of oversimplification, the Bar Council of India has permitted registered foreign firms and lawyers to practise on transactional or corporate work (such as joint ventures, mergers and acquisitions, and intellectual property matters) on a reciprocal basis. Foreign lawyers cannot appear before Indian courts, tribunals, or statutory authorities. But, they are now permitted to advise and appear in international arbitration cases conducted in India, irrespective of whether foreign law may or may not be involved.

Previously, the Supreme Court of India had prohibited foreign lawyers from practising law in India in either litigation or the non-litigation side and restricted their participation in international arbitration cases to visiting India on a "fly in and fly out" basis. The BCI Rules clearly envisage a greater role for foreign lawyers, albeit in an intensely regulated framework. Thus, it is a significant step forward from the existing system. Time will tell how this impacts the Indian legal industry, but the initial signs are that of promise and optimism.

Long-term benefits, but also risks

While the BCI Rules may affect the immediate profitability of some Indian law firms and lawyers, the long-term benefits are expected to be immense. For instance, the reciprocity requirement can ensure that Indian lawyers receive increased access to the legal profession in foreign jurisdictions. This could enable a sustained exchange of know-how, skills, and expertise between lawyers across jurisdictions. The entry of foreign firms in India will also increase competition; thereby creating more job opportunities for Indian lawyers, fostering a better work culture and remuneration, and incentivising competing stakeholders to heighten the quality of their services. This should augur well not only for the Indian lawyer community but, equally, for also India's emergence as an economic leader.

But, as with any liberalisation project, any optimism must be balanced against the risks that an unregulated market often brings. Indian stakeholders have already identified some of these risks in ongoing conversations with the Bar Council of India. For instance, the differences in how Indian and foreign law firms are regulated in their home jurisdictions can create unintended distortions. While Indian lawyers are prohibited from soliciting clients through advertisements, such restrictions rarely exist in other jurisdictions. The ethical rules governing foreign-qualified lawyers may also differ from those in India, creating confusion as to which set of rules will apply in a transaction or arbitration setting. Finally, certain multi-jurisdictional law firms with offices in various countries may have greater monetary capabilities than their Indian counterparts, making it difficult for the latter to compete. This would require the Bar Council of India to carefully regulate the speed and extent of foreign lawyers' entry into India. If not, the pitfalls of liberalisation may soon outweigh its anticipated benefits.

There is dialogue

It appears that the Bar Council of India is conscious of the pros and cons of its decision. This is clear from the imposition of stringent registration (and renewal) requirements on foreign entrants and their continued exclusion from any litigious work in the BCI Rules. But the most important encouragement emanates from the consultative approach adopted by the Bar Council of India. The regulator is not taking any decision in a hurry and remains in dialogue with the critics of its decision. It is for these reasons that one may perceive the BCI Rules with careful optimism, and hope that it ushers the Indian legal industry towards a brighter future.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ceasefire proposal

Hamas' acceptance of a ceasefire proposal offered by Egypt and Qatar is a welcome step (Page 1, May 7). For a permanent and lasting solution, the five big powers of the world should take the regional powers, Iran and Saudi Arabia, into confidence and arrive at a solution. A solution under the ambit of the United Nations seems to be remote.

Rettavayal S. Krishnaswamy,
Chennai

Could we be seeing light at the end of the tunnel? History will never pardon Israel, America and its allies. The gory bloodbath in Gaza remains unparalleled in modern wars. And even more shameful is the fact that the world remained a mute spectator; more so the eerie silence of the Islamic countries. One needs to compliment South Africa for filing a case in the International Court of Justice for genocide against Israel.

One hopes and prays that the ceasefire proposal should be implemented in letter and spirit and those displaced given proper accommodation, food, medical treatment and counselling to take their lives forward.

T. Anand Raj,
Chennai

There has been much bloodshed and it is high time that better sense prevails over Israel. There should be some trade off between both sides. Otherwise, another attack would only worsen Gaza's humanitarian catastrophe.

Bal Govind,
Noida, Uttar Pradesh

Plunder of wealth

Coal, iron ore, oil, spectrum, sand and water are all natural resources and the nation's wealth. Hence it is the duty of the State and central governments to ensure that these are used for public benefit in the best possible way. But for years, we have been witness to scams involving the large-scale misuse of this precious wealth. The political class, officials and private parties have amassed wealth in this process. Not surprisingly courts have stuck down government actions and licensing processes. The need is for good governance practices and ethical functioning of government departments ("SC seeks report as T.N., ED spar over sand mining case", May 7).

B. Sundar Raman,
Coimbatore

On NEET

This is another letter, after the one that appeared yesterday ('Letters to The Editor', May 7) on the way the NEET was held. At the exam at the Rajadhani Institute of Engineering, Attingal, Thiruvananthapuram, on Sunday, May 5, which was conducted by NTA, the invigilators did not allow the candidates to begin answering the question paper till 2:30 p.m. This was in examination hall no. 706, on the seventh floor. The official start time for candidates was from 2 p.m.. When the candidates pointed this out at the end of the exam, the invigilators came up with a shocking answer: 'You lost only 30 minutes.' Every minute counts in a (tough) competitive examination. An invigilator should understand that for a student who spends a few years preparing for such an examination, such actions end up causing him great distress.

Zulphee I.,
Thiruvanathapuram

Animal attacks

It is distressing that pet animals too are turning out to be menace as far as children and the elderly are concerned. There are certain breeds of dogs that are dangerous and this must be made clear. There is hardly any area in Chennai that is free of stray cattle and dogs. People getting attacked by these animals and facing injuries has become common.

V. Johan Dhanakumar,
Chennai

Badminton prospects

In badminton, India needs to have two reasonably good doubles teams. In the Uber Cup, the relatively inexperienced girls gave a very good account of themselves. A good coach can help the Indian girls achieve greater heights.

J.R. Vedasiromoni,
Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu

Corrections & Clarifications

A Business page story titled "VST Tillers, HTC ally to add power tractor" (May 7, 2024) erroneously said "VST commands 70% share in the Indian *compact tractor* market." It should have been *power tiller* market.

The Readers' Editor's office can be contacted by Telephone: +91-44-28418297/28576300; E-mail:readerseditor@thehindu.co.in

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

An inheritance tax will help reduce inequality

A remark by Chairman of Indian Overseas Congress Sam Pitroda on implementing an inheritance tax as a tool of wealth redistribution has sparked massive debates. In this article, we present rationale on why high inequality is harmful, and advocate for progressive taxes as a mechanism to reduce inequality.

Primarily, we underscore the need to take a view of citizenship where the poor and the rich can participate equally in democratic decision-making. However, in an unequal society, a handful of dominant individuals can wield a disproportionate amount of power through control of resources. This will likely lead to a few wealthy elites dictating the socioeconomic and political decisions aimed to benefit them at the cost of the majority. The recent electoral bonds scam bears witness to this. The citizenship of wealthy elites would then carry more weight than the majority of the country. This is ethically hazardous.

Advait Moharir

is an independent researcher

Rajendran Narayanan

teaches at Azim Premji University, Bengaluru and is affiliated with LibTech India.

Views are personal

Why inequality matters

First, inequality harms growth in the medium-to-long run, by hampering firm productivity, reducing labour income, and diverting resources away from rights such as education. Second, in unequal countries, the place of birth holds inordinate power in directing lifetime outcomes. In India, almost a third of the variation in consumption can be explained by the place of residence: the State, and city or village. Third, high inequality is also associated with political polarisation and increased conflict. Fourth, inequality is likely to have a negative multiplier effect on the economy – diminished earnings for the poor lead to reduced consumption and savings and increased indebtedness. This reduces aggregate demand, limits production and investments, and leads to lower growth rates in the future. Using labour bureau data, Jean Drèze and Reetika Khera showed that while real wages of agricultural labourers grew by 6.8% between 2004-2014, they declined by 1.3% in the last decade. Using Periodic Labour Force Survey data, a Bahutva Karnataka report shows that 34% of households earned less than the recommended daily minimum wage of ₹375 in 2022-23. Using Reserve Bank of India data, Zico Dasgupta and Srinivas Raghavendra voice concern about the sharp reduction in household savings and increased debt. In contrast to these, the richest 1% holds 40% of India's wealth.

Some commentators argue that some inequality during growth is inevitable, and the priority instead should be towards reducing poverty. However, research by Tianyu Fan and co-authors shows that the gains from India's growth over the last two decades have been skewed towards high-income urban residents. Keeping everything else the same, there is nothing inherently special in the children of the wealthy compared to the children of the poor. The Constitution mandates equality of status and of opportunity. As such the government is obliged to take steps to reduce the disparities arising from accidents of birth.

An inheritance tax

A wealth tax is a recurring tax on all physical and financial assets an individual owns. An inheritance tax differs from a wealth tax in two ways: it is intergenerational and levied once in a lifetime. These taxes are meant to be applied to individuals having high wealth above a threshold. When implemented well, these taxes reduce the concentration of wealth and encourage shifting investments from non-productive to productive activities. Property of the elite being bequeathed to descendants implies that the descendants do no work to acquire it. There is no economic reason for it to be a freebie for them. Some might argue that inheritance tax will disincentivise innovations. But this disregards that innovation is needed to be competitive today and suggests that innovation is solely to propagate dynastic control of resources which is at odds with democratic ideals. On the contrary, revenue generated from inheritance tax can be used to fund a diversified set of innovations. An advanced country like Japan has up to 55% inheritance tax. A variant of the inheritance tax, called estates duty, was levied in India between 1953-1985 but this was abolished owing to administrative costs. However, the economist Rishabh Kumar shows that this was effective in reducing the top 1% personal wealth share from 16% to 6% between 1966 and 1985.

Property of the elite being bequeathed to descendants implies that the descendants do no work to acquire it. There is no economic reason for it to be a freebie for them

Another approach is the land value tax (LVT): this taxes the rental value of land, without considering the property built on it. This is borne by the landowner and not the tenants. Unlike labour, land is a natural resource and is unresponsive to changes in taxes, making the LVT an efficient source of revenue. Given the role of land ownership in perpetuating feudal caste relations in rural India and the pervasive politician-builder nexus in urban India, LVT can be a useful redistributive mechanism.

Detractors claim that tax evasion among the wealthy makes these taxes impractical. However, recent research by Natasha Sarin (in the U.S.) projects that sufficient investment in improving tax compliance can yield revenue up to 10 times the investment. Nathaniel Hendren and co-authors show that auditing the top 1% and 0.1% generated three to six times the return on investment.

Economists Jayati Ghosh and Prabhat Patnaik demonstrate that a 2% wealth tax and a 33.3% inheritance tax only on the top 1% in India can raise an additional public expenditure of 10% of the GDP. This can be used to ensure a bouquet of socioeconomic rights for the poor like living wages, right to health, employment, and food. Given technological advancements, these are possible if there is political will.

An example of language tolerance

For years, Hindi has peacefully coexisted with Gujarati in Gujarat

STATE OF PLAY

Mahesh Langa
mahesh.langa@thehindu.co.in

Since 2014, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has, with only a few exceptions, been consistently speaking in Hindi to connect with the Gujarati people in his home State, whether at government events or election rallies. As these speeches and events are telecast live by news channels, they reach a national audience.

During the campaign to the ongoing Lok Sabha elections, for instance, Mr. Modi addressed six rallies in the north and central provinces and the Saurashtra region. All his speeches were in Hindi; he spoke occasional sentences in Gujarati. Even in the run-up to the 2022 Assembly polls, he mainly used Hindi while addressing over a dozen rallies across the State.

This was not the case before Mr. Modi became Prime Minister. During his nearly 13 years as Gujarat Chief Minister, the majority of his speeches were in Gujarati, which is also his mother tongue.

Normally, a political leader speaks in their mother tongue – at least in their native State. In this context, Mr. Modi's preference for Hindi to communicate with the people of his home State may seem strange. In April 2017, he explained why he does so, during a visit to Surat to inaugurate a multi-speciality hospital built by a trust dominated by the diamond barons of the city. "I was in a dilemma whether to speak in Hindi or Gujarati, but since you have done such a big job, I decided to speak in Hindi. That's how the country will know about it," he said.

During his election speeches in Gujarat, he sometimes switches to Gujarati. At a recent rally in north Gujarat's Banaskantha, for example, Mr. Modi switched to Gujarati while talking about the inheritance tax and how it will impact the masses. "If you have two buffaloes, the Congress will take away one if it comes to power," he said. This was done intentionally to drive home a point to the rural dairy farmers of north Gujarat, where dairy farming is a major source of livelihood.

The Prime Minister's use of Hindi in Gujarat does not lead to much chatter or discussion. This is because first, as a political observer said, Hindi is mostly understood in the State, even by those in rural areas, thanks to the penetration of Bollywood movies and Hindi television serials. Congress leaders Manmohan Singh and Sonia Gandhi would also address the public in Hindi without a translator whenever they campaigned in Gujarat. Second, Mr. Modi is seen as a national leader and not just a regional leader in Gujarat. The common feeling among the public is that he is expected to speak in Hindi as he is the Prime Minister.

In 1960, Gujarat was carved out of the bilingual Bombay State. Ever since, Hindi has peacefully coexisted with Gujarati. There have been no demands that those who live in the State must speak in Gujarati alone. This tolerance, said Pranav Joshi, a Gujarati filmmaker, is probably the reason why Bollywood films do well in the Gujarat market while Gujarati films struggle.

Also, since Gujarat has become a hub for migrants from across the country, there is linguistic diversity. This is best seen in Surat where the civic body municipal corporation runs public schools in Odia, Telugu, Urdu, Marathi, and Hindi besides Gujarati.

According to a retired bureaucrat, though Gujarati remains the primary language of communication in the State, bureaucrats freely speak and communicate in Hindi or English without any inhibition even in the Secretariat. "Chief Minister Chimanbhai Patel used to conduct his Cabinet meetings in Gujarati and English. He would speak in Gujarati with Ministers and in English with bureaucrats," the bureaucrat said. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, who is a Rajya Sabha member from Gujarat, always speaks in English during government-organised events in the State.

Even in the Assembly, the Governor's speech is delivered in Hindi. Though a Gujarati translation of the speech is shared with the members of the House and the press, the speech is never translated into Gujarati by a translator sentence by sentence as it is delivered or read.

Gujarat in a way presents a remarkable example of language tolerance where non-Gujarati migrant workers based in any part of the State can freely speak their own language or dialect. Since the State attracts the maximum of migrant workers from north Indian Hindi-speaking States such as Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh, Hindi has almost become a second language in Gujarat.

A look at the regional differences in voting patterns

Despite a much bigger win in 2019, the NDA's vote share marginally reduced in the south compared with 2014

DATA POINT

Rebecca Rose Varghese & Vignesh Radhakrishnan

The aspirations and opinions of voters in the southern States – Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana – vary considerably compared to those in other regions, especially the north, according to the pre-poll survey conducted by the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS)-Lokniti in March-April.

For example, in the survey, when asked to rate their satisfaction level with the Central government, only 16% in the south said they were fully satisfied compared with 27% from the north and west and 21% from the east and north-east. When asked whether the construction of the Ram Mandir will impact Hindus, 28% from the south said it won't impact Hindus much, the highest share among all the regions. Also, 38% from the south said they intend to vote for the BJP and its allies in 2024 compared with 50% in the north and west and 47% in the east and north-east.

Past election results show that such stark differences in opinions impacted the regions' voting behaviour too. The tables in the graphic depict the region-wise voting patterns in 2019 and 2014. However, the comparison is based on the alliances formed to fight the 2024 general election. The regions are based on geographical and linguistic divides (see graphic footnote).

Table 1A shows the percentage of seats won by alliances (based on current coalitions) in 2019 across regions. **Table 1B** shows the percentage of votes secured by them in 2019 across regions. **Table 2A** and **2B** show the same for 2014. **Table 3** shows the difference in seat and vote share between 2014 and 2019.

As can be seen from Tables 1 and 2, the NDA was strongest in the Hindi heartland and the west in both 2014 and 2019. In the Hindi heartland, the NDA secured a vote share of 47.1% in 2014 and 53.9% in 2019. In the west, it secured a vote share of 52.1% in 2014 and 54.8% in 2019. The NDA also secured 85-90% of seats in these regions in both the polls. Note that in the west, the Shiv Sena is counted as the NDA's ally for these calculations as the Eknath Shinde faction retained the party symbol. The Uddhav Thackeray faction is fighting the election as a part of the INDIA alliance.

Interestingly, between 2014 and 2019, the NDA's vote share reduced only in the south, by 0.2% points, even as it increased everywhere else. As Table 3B shows, the NDA's vote share increased by 21.4% points in the east, 8.6% points in the north-east, and 3.8% points in the non-Hindi-speaking north. This means that the NDA's performance improved considerably in the east, north-east and non-Hindi north, which were its relatively weaker areas in 2014, while worsening marginally in the south.

The INDIA alliance's only increase in vote share between 2014 and 2019 came in the south – 5.5 % points (Table 3B), largely owing to a surge in support in Tamil Nadu (over 20% points). In 2019, while the alliance's strongest showing came from the non-Hindi north, with a 45.7% vote share, it still lost 7.7% points in the region.

This time, the NDA's performance in the south depends on factors such as the impact of the snapping of ties between the AIADMK and the BJP on the NDA in Tamil Nadu, the performance of the new alliance of the BJP, TDP, and the Jana Sena Party in Andhra Pradesh, and the ramifications of the Prajwal Revanna videotapes scandal on the BJP-JD(S) alliance in Karnataka. The INDIA bloc's fortunes depend on the cohesion of the alliance in Tamil Nadu, Kerala's polity remaining bipolar, and the Congress' resurgence in Karnataka and Telangana.

Voting trends across the country

Past voter data was sourced from Lok Dhaba and the 2024 alliance-based calculations are done by *The Hindu* Data team

International Day of Democracy: College students read the Preamble of the Constitution of India as part of International Day of Democracy in front of Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru in 2023. MURALI KUMAR K

Table 1A: % of seats won in 2019

Region	Total seats	NDA	INDIA	Others
Hindi heartland	225	87.1%	5.8%	7.1%
Non-Hindi north	20	30%	60%	10.0%
South	132	25%	49.2%	25.8%
West	78	88.5%	7.7%	3.8%
East	64	40.6%	4.7%	54.7%
North-East	24	70.8%	16.7%	12.5%

Table 1B: % of vote share secured in 2019

Region	NDA	INDIA	Others
Hindi heartland	53.9%	29.7%	16.5%
Non-Hindi north	18.2%	45.7%	36.1%
South	29.8%	37.9%	32.3%
West	54.8%	32.2%	13%
East	39.6%	13.6%	46.8%
North-East	45.8%	36.4%	17.8%

Table 2A: % of seats won in 2014

Region	Total seats	NDA	INDIA	Others
Hindi heartland	225	85.3%	8.9%	5.8%
Non-Hindi north	20	30%	35%	35%
South	132	31.8%	22.7%	45.5%
West	78	91%	7.7%	1.3%
East	64	4.7%	9.4%	85.9%
North-East	24	41.7%	41.7%	16.7%

Table 2B: % of vote share secured in 2014

Region	NDA	INDIA	Others
Hindi heartland	47.1%	33.2%	19.7%
Non-Hindi north	14.4%	53.4%	32.2%
South	30.0%	32.4%	37.7%
West	52.1%	36.5%	11.5%
East	18.2%	36%	45.8%
North-East	37.1%	38.4%	24.4%

Table 3A: Change in seats won between 2014 and 2019. Figures in % points

Region	NDA	INDIA	Others
Hindi heartland	+1.8	-3.1	+1.3
Non-Hindi north	0	+25	-25
South	-6.8	+26.5	-19.7
West	-2.6	0	+2.6
East	+35.9	-4.7	-31.3
North-East	+29.2	-25.0	-4.2

Table 3B: Change in vote share secured between 2014 and 2019. Figures in % points

Region	NDA	INDIA	Others
Hindi heartland	+6.8	-3.6	-3.3
Non-Hindi north	+3.8	-7.7	+3.9
South	-0.2	+5.5	-5.3
West	+2.7	-4.3	+1.6
East	+21.4	-22.4	+1
North-East	+8.6	-2.1	-6.6

East: Odisha, Sikkim, West Bengal; **North-East:** Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura; **North non-Hindi:** Punjab, Jammu & Kashmir UT, Ladakh UT and Chandigarh; **West:** Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu UT, Goa, Gujarat and Maharashtra; **South**: A&N Islands UT, Lakshadweep UT, Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana; **Hindi heartland:** Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi, Chhattisgarh, Bihar

An in-depth interactive on current and past LS elections

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO MAY 8, 1974

Brandt resigns following spy scandal

Bonn, May 7: The West German Chancellor, Mr. Willy Brandt, resigned suddenly last night over an espionage scandal. In his letter to the President, Mr. Gustav Heinemann, Mr. Brandt said he was resigning, assuming "the entire political responsibility" for the scandal involving his former personal aide, Guenter Guillaume, who was arrested on April 24 as a spy for East Germany.

Mr. Brandt asked the President to appoint the Foreign Minister, Mr. Walter Scheel, as the acting Chancellor, until a successor had been elected by the Bundestag (Parliament's Lower House). Mr. Scheel is coincidentally the ruling coalition's candidate to succeed Mr. Heinemann as the President. The election is scheduled for May 15.

The ruling Social Democratic Party met later and nominated the Finance Minister, Mr. Helmut Schmidt, to succeed Mr. Brandt. Mr. Heinz Kuehn, Deputy Chairman of the party, told newsmen that Mr. Brandt himself had proposed Mr. Schmidt as his successor. Mr. Brandt would, however, retain the Federal Chairmanship of the party. Mr. Schmidt (55) has been Finance Minister for two years and was Defence Minister under Mr. Brandt before that. A Social Democrat who stands to the right of his party Chairman politically, he has long been tipped as the man most likely to succeed him.

Known in Bonn as "Schmidt-schnauze (Schmidt the lip)" for his articulate performances in parliamentary debates, he is known to feel that Bonn should represent West German interests more forcefully within the common market.

Shadow cast over Europe:

London, May 7: Mr. Willy Brandt's resignation as West German Chancellor has cast a pale shadow on the political map of Europe to-day. The consequences for West Germany and for Europe – whose cause of unity Mr. Brandt had so long espoused – are unforseeable.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO MAY 8, 1924

Steamer collision

London, May 7: An Antwerp message states that the Swedish steamer "Yedoo" from Gothenburg and the German steamer "Barenfels" from Bremen, both bound for Calcutta, collided in the Sche'dt. The former sank and the latter was badly damaged.

From Page One

Largely peaceful Phase 3 sees over 64% polling

Mr. Salim alleged that voters were intimidated by Trinamool supporters and that fake polling agents were made to sit inside polling booths.

Polling was peaceful in the 14 constituencies which voted in Karnataka, with 70.41% of voters having cast their ballots, as per data at 11.30 p.m.

Rain in Assam

In Assam, 81.71% of voters exercised their franchise across four Lok Sabha constituencies. The polling was peaceful, barring a minor scuffle in the Kokrajhar constituency, officials said.

Polling in Assam was affected by rainfall in the early hours, but picked up momentum around noon when the skies cleared. EC officials said the turnout figures are likely to go up further.

In Chhattisgarh, the polling percentage for seven constituencies was 71.06.

In Bihar, where polling was held for five seats, the turnout was low at 58.18%, though Araria and Supaul recorded turnouts of more than 59%.

In Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, the polling percentage was 69.87. In Goa, the turnout was 75.2% for the two seats which went to the polls. The nine seats that went to the polls in Madhya Pradesh recorded an approximate voter turnout of 66.05%.

Maharashtra recorded a voter turnout of 61.44% in 11 out of its 48 Lok Sabha constituencies in the third phase.

In the 10 seats that went to the polls in Uttar Pradesh, the turnout was 57.34%.

Haryana govt. in crisis; 3 Independents pull out

The Independent MLAs said the people had seen the workings of the BJP, and now there was no justification for giving another opportunity to the party. They said every section of society was hit by unemployment, inflation, and increasing crime under the present government's regime.

Mr. Udaibhan said, "With the withdrawal of support by the three MLAs and Jannayak Janta Party's (JJP) exit from the government, it is clear that a minority government is running the State. In such a situation, the BJP has no moral right to remain in power. The government should face Assembly election. This should be conducted by immediately imposing President's rule in Haryana."

Mr. Hooda said the MLAs had made this decision keeping in mind the public sentiments. "Congress's victory is certain in the Lok Sabha and upcoming Assembly election."

Assembly election is due in the State later this year.

SC defers order on bail plea of Kejriwal

The ED arrested Mr. Kejriwal on March 21 in the Delhi excise policy case, a few days after the Model Code of Conduct came into force. On May 3, the top court had made a surprise announcement that it was considering interim bail for Mr. Kejriwal due to the election.

The Bench, however, said that it would be wrong on the part of Mr. Kejriwal, assuming he got interim bail, to exercise his official duties or sign files. "Such a development would have a cascading effect," Justice Khanna observed. Senior advocate A.M. Singhvi, appearing for Mr. Kejriwal, pleaded that such a stricture would be "humiliating" for a sitting Chief Minister. The excise policy was chucked long ago, he pointed out. The senior lawyer argued that Mr. Kejriwal had been functioning in office from August 2022, when the FIR in the case was registered.

Justice Datta said that the court was considering interim bail only on account of the election.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, along with Additional Solicitor General S.V. Raju, for the ED, attempted to punch holes in the very suggestion of bail to Mr. Kejriwal, saying that the "heavens would not fall if he did not campaign". He said that the court would send the wrong message.

SC provides relief to over 23,000 Bengal teachers

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday gave relief to the West Bengal government by protecting nearly 24,000 teaching and non-teaching staff members from immediate termination from their jobs in schools across the State.

A three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud was hearing a petition filed by the State government against a Calcutta High Court order to terminate 23,123 teaching and non-teaching staffers en bloc.

The High Court had invalidated all the appointments, whether tainted or not, in an order issued on April 22.

The recruitments, made in 2016 by the West Bengal School Service Commission (WBSSC), were linked to the cash-for-school jobs recruitment "scam".

The State government had argued in the apex court that the immediate removal of such a large population of teachers would drastically affect students and put school education in the State in a quandary, that too, at the beginning of the new academic year.

Advertisers should submit self-declarations before promoting products: SC

Advertisers to upload self-declarations on the I&B Ministry's 'Broadcast Seva' portal; the Bench also advised social media influencers to act responsibly and not be part of 'deceptive advertising'

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The court's directions came in a case of misleading advertisements run by Patanjali Ayurved, co-founded by Baba Ramdev. PTI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday directed that advertisers should submit self-declarations that they are not misrepresenting or making false claims about products before promoting them in the media.

The Bench of Justices Hima Kohli and Ahsanuddin Amanullah passed the order to protect consumers from being trapped by misleading advertisements. The directions came in a case stemming from the misleading advertisements run by Patanjali Ayurved, co-founded by yoga guru Baba Ramdev, for years.

As a "tide-over" measure, the court ordered that advertisers should submit their self-declarations in line with the Cable TV Network Regulations Rules of 1994.

Advertisers intending to run advertisements in TV channels should upload their self-declarations on the Information and Broadcasting Ministry's 'Broadcast Seva' portal. A copy should be given to the broadcaster also.

The court directed the Ministry to open a similar portal for print advertisers in four weeks.

"Immediately after the portal is activated, all ads in the Press/Print Media, the advertisers shall file their self-declarations before issuing advertisements," the court said.

Sense of responsibility

The Bench made it clear that social media influencers, celebrities and public figures promoting products should act with a sense of responsibility and must take care to not be a part of "deceptive advertising".

"A person who endorses a product should have adequate experience and information about the product," the court observed in the order.

The court further directed the Centre to set a proper and specific procedure by which an aggrieved consumer could file his complaint against misleading advertisements and misbranding. The Centre should ensure that the consumer is made fully aware and apprised of the action taken on the complaint and its logical conclusion.

"The consumer should not be left oblivious of the outcome of the complaint," the court noted.

In a further development, the Union government withdrew with immediate effect an AYUSH Ministry letter of August 29, 2023 "omitting" Rule 170 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945.

This provision dealt with action to be taken against objectionable advertisements.

Crucial part

"The letter, which is nothing more than an administrative instruction, cannot put on hold Rule 170, which remains a part of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945," the court clarified.

The Bench further ordered the Ministry of Health to provide data on the number of complaints received by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) about misleading advertisements and misbranding of food and health products.

Xu Feihong to take over as China's new Ambassador to India

Press Trust of India
BEIJING

Xu Feihong

Chinese President Xi Jinping has appointed senior diplomat Xu Feihong as the new Ambassador to India after an unusually long delay of 18 months amid frozen relations between the two countries over the eastern Ladakh military stand-off.

While there is no official announcement in Beijing yet, the Chinese Foreign Ministry has confirmed that Mr. Xu, former Ambassador to Afghanistan and Romania, has been appointed as China's new envoy in India.

Mr. Xu, 60, is expected to travel to New Delhi soon to take over his new posting.

He will succeed veteran Chinese diplomat Sun Weidong who completed his tenure in India in October 2022.

Mr. Sun, who was China's envoy to Pakistan before his India stint, is currently the Vice-Foreign Minister overseeing China's South Asia policy.

Military stand-off

Mr. Xu's appointment which coincides with the ongoing Lok Sabha elections comes amid protracted military and diplomatic negotiations between Beijing and New Delhi to resolve the prolonged military stand-off.

Relations between the two countries were frozen except for trade ever since the eastern Ladakh border stand-off erupted on May 5, 2020, following a violent clash in the Pangong Tso (lake) area. The eastern Ladakh stand-off has resulted in a freeze of bilateral ties.

The two sides have so far held 21 rounds of corps commanders-level talks to resolve the stand-off.

According to the Chinese military, the two sides so far agreed to disengage from four points, namely the Galwan Valley, the Pangong Lake, Hot Springs, and Jianan Daban (Gogra).

India is pressing the People's Liberation Army (PLA) to disengage from the Depsang and Demchok areas, maintaining that there cannot be restoration of normalcy in its relations with China as long as the state of the borders remains abnormal.

Civilised society will not glorify violence, India tells Canada

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

India on Tuesday slammed Canada for allowing a float that depicted objectionable imagery and effigies. This comes in the backdrop of exchanges between Canada and India over allegations that Indian agents were involved in the assassination of Hardeep Singh Nijjar in June 2023.

"Celebration and glorification of violence should not be a part of any civilised society. Democratic countries which respect the rule of law should not allow intimidation by radical elements in the name of freedom of expression," Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said. The float was organised at Malton, Ontario as part of a '*Nagar Kirtan*' celebrating Sikh heritage. A part of the procession contained a prison-like structure with an effigy of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

India had protested in 2023 when a similar float was taken out on June 5, the anniversary of Operation Blue Star, depicting the 1984 assassination of PM Indira Gandhi.

Canada last week arrested three persons of Indian origin in connection with the murder of Mr. Nijjar. However, India is yet to officially comment on the arrests, and it is understood that the Indian side is verifying the facts behind the arrests. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar has, however, said that the arrests appear to be related to gangs that operate within Canada.

EC directs X to take down animated video by BJP, on Karnataka Congress plaint

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

It suggests that the party is diverting funds and resources from the SC, ST and OBC to Muslims

The Election Commission on Tuesday directed the social media platform X to take down an animated video posted by the Karnataka unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

The video features caricatures of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and suggests that the party is diverting funds and resources from the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes, and the Other Backward Classes to Muslims.

The post, which has garnered over 90 lakh views, remained accessible at the time of going to press.

In a notice to the nodal officer of X, the commission said the video was "violative of extant legal framework".

The Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee had complained on May 5 that the video violated the Model Code of Conduct (MCC), following which Chief Electoral Officer Manoj Kumar Meena, through the Karnataka Cybercrime Division, ordered X to take down the post.

"However, the post has not been taken down yet," Anuj Chandak, a Deputy Director at the Election Commission, said in the notice. "Therefore, 'X' is directed to take down the post immediately," Mr. Chandak said.

This video is one of three on this theme put out by the BJP recently. A video posted on May 6 by Arvind Dharmapuri, BJP candidate from Nizamabad, Telangana, depicts Congress leaders encouraging Muslim persons getting on a boat and throwing SC, ST, and OBC people off the boat. The video remains on X. The first such video was posted from the BJP's national handle on Instagram.

The party took down the post even as Meta, parent of the social media firm, was reviewing reports against it, an individual aware of the company's deliberations said.

Militant Basit Dar killed in encounter, say J&K police

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

Two militants, one 'commander' of the Resistance Front, were killed in a two-day anti-militancy operation in south Kashmir's Kulgam on Tuesday.

"Two terrorists were neutralised during the operation. The bodies have been retrieved. Basit Dar is one of the slain militants. He is an 'A' category militant of the TRF and was involved in more than 18 cases. Dar's killing is a significant achievement for us," Inspector-General of Police (IGP), Kashmir, Vidhi Kumar Birdi, said.

He said that the police have "ample evidence about the involvement of Dar in planning attacks on civilians, besides the police personnel".

EPFO checks course of action on HC judgment

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Retirement fund body EPFO on Tuesday said that it is evaluating the course of action with regard to a judgment of the Karnataka High Court holding the inclusion of foreign workers in the provident fund as 'unconstitutional'.

The Karnataka High Court has struck down the provisions of including international workers within the ambit of employees' provident fund and pension scheme saying that it is "unconstitutional and arbitrary". "While holding the highest regard for the Court's decision, the EPFO is actively evaluating the course of action in response to this judgment," the EPFO said.

Focus on mother tongue from the early stages: CBSE

Maitri Porecha
NEW DELHI

Teaching in the mother tongue and through activity-based methods have been emphasised in the National Education Policy. FILE PHOTO

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has instructed all its schools to make use of educational material which will focus on learning in one's mother tongue and encourage multilingual education.

The CBSE circular dated May 7 is in line with the National Education Policy, 2020 and the National Curriculum Framework, 2022, which emphasise teaching and learning in the child's mother tongue, or regional and local language.

"Recognising the value of preserving linguistic diversity as highlighted in above documents, the National Council for Educational Research and Training and the Indian Institute of Languages have collaborated to produce a series of 52 entry-level primers tailored to various mother tongues and local languages spoken across India," Praggya M. Singh, Director (Academics), CBSE, said. Bhutia, Bodo, Garo, Khandeshi, Kinnauri, Kuki, Manipuri, Nepali, Sherpa and Tulu are some of the languages the primers are available in.

These primers form a basal reader for the local language and introduce numerals to the children attending balvatikas and anganwadis.

"Schools are encouraged to promote the use of these primers among teachers and students to develop strong language skills in their native language," Ms. Singh said.

U.K. court rejects fifth bail plea of Nirav Modi

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The fifth bail application of diamantaire Nirav Modi, who is one of the prime accused in the ₹13,578-crore Punjab National Bank (PNB) scam, has been turned down by a United Kingdom court. In April 2021, the Secretary of State of the U.K.'s Home Department had ordered his extradition, but it has not been implemented so far.

Mr. Modi is currently languishing in privately-run Thameside prison in Greenwich, where he was transferred in September last year. On April 16, he had moved yet another application before the court citing long incarceration. However, it was dismissed during the hearing on Tuesday.

APPEAL

Rajashri aged 4 years is advised to undergo Heart Surgery (Ventricular Septal Defect) Closure at The Public Health Centre, Chennai. The total expenditure is **Rs. 1,25,000/-**. Her family is very poor and cannot afford this huge cost. Please help her to undergo the surgery and lead a healthy life. The donations sent through Ch/D.D/NEFT Transfer & Google Pay (Canara Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/C. No:60182010063310, IFSC No: CNRB0016018) favouring **WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE** is exempted under 80G IT.

All correspondence is done through **WWS,** Regd Public Charitable Trust, **Flat No. GF 1, Corddel Apartments, O.No.13, N.No.29, Pycrofts Garden Lane, Chennai - 600006. Ph: 044-42137401/ 28235324/ 7338978027. E Mail ID: womenswelfaresyndicate@gmail.com.** Website: www.womenswelfaresyndicate.org.

WWS

ELECTIONS 2024

BIHAR

Safe polling: Voters queue up at a polling station under tight security in Khagaria on Tuesday. PTI

CHHATTISGARH

All together: Bhupesh Baghel, Congress candidate from Rajnandgaon, and his family after voting in Durg. ANI

WEST BENGAL

Heated argument: Trinamool Congress and BJP leaders clash outside a polling station in Murshidabad. PTI

ASSAM

Umbrella crowd: People wait in queue at the Bonda polling station in Guwahati amid mild rain. RITU RAJ KONWAR

Keeping a close watch: Central Reserve Police Force personnel conducting a march near polling stations in Murshidabad on Tuesday. ANI

Clashes in Murshidabad mar polling in West Bengal

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Four constituencies in West Bengal that went to the polls in the third phase of the Lok Sabha election recorded about 76.03% turnout on Tuesday, as per provisional data. The figures are expected to rise since polling continued till 6 p.m. in Malda Uttar, Malda Dakshin, Jangipur, and Murshidabad.

The Murshidabad constituency recorded 79.61% polling, whereas at Jangipur, the turnout was 72.67%. The Malda Uttar Lok Sabha constituency recorded 75.92% polling, while Malda Dakshin recorded 76.15%.

Along with the Lok Sabha election, byelection to the Bhagwangola Assembly seat was also held, where 73.93% polling was registered.

The polling was largely peaceful but there were instances where the Congress-supported Left Front candidate Mohammad Salim, contesting the Murshidabad seat, came face-to-face with Trinamool Congress supporters at various places in Murshidabad, which led to tensions and skirmishes.

Slogans raised

Trinamool supporters raised slogans of "go back" at Raninagar against Mr. Salim, the Communist Party of India (Marxist) State secretary, who also got embroiled in a scuffle with the Trinamool supporters. Mr. Salim alleged that voters were intimidated by Trinamool supporters and "fake polling agents" were made to sit inside polling booths.

Mr. Salim is contesting against Trinamool candidate and sitting MP Abu Taher Khan. Data shared by the office of the Chief Electoral Officer, West Bengal pointed out that the most number of complaints were received from Murshidabad.

The BJP candidate from Malda Dakshin, Sreerupa Mitra Chowdhury, was seen accusing police personnel at a polling booth of causing hindrance to peaceful polling.

A total of 334 companies of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) were deployed in the four constituencies that went to the polls on Tuesday. Altogether 73,37,651 voters, including 36,12,395 women and 154 voters belonging to the third gender, were eligible to exercise their franchise.

Gujarat sees 59% turnout; Modi, Shah cast their votes

Valsad district witnessed the highest voter turnout at 72.24% while Banaskantha recorded 68.44%, Chhota Udaipur 67.78%, and Bharuch 68.75%; three villages completely boycotted the election

Mahesh Langa
AHMEDABAD

Over 59.46% turnout was registered in the 25 constituencies of Gujarat where polling was held in the third phase of the Lok Sabha election on Tuesday, as per provisional data at 11.30 p.m.

There are 265 candidates in the fray, including three Union Cabinet Ministers Amit Shah, Mansukh Mandaviya and Parshottam Rupala, and a Minister of State Devusinh Chauhan.

The polls were held in 25 of the 26 constituencies in the State because the ruling BJP bagged the Surat seat unopposed after eight out of nine eligible candidates withdrew their nomination forms. Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) candidate Mukesh Dalal was declared the winner.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah had cast their votes in the Ranip and Naranpura booths, respectively.

The Prime Minister urged voters to cast their ballots and participate in the democratic process.

Valsad district witnessed the highest voter turnout at 72.24%, while Banaskantha recorded 68.44%, Chhota Udaipur 67.78%, and Bharuch 68.75%.

Duty calls: Prime Minister Narendra Modi arriving with Union Home Minister Amit Shah to cast his vote at Nishan Public School, Ranip in Ahmedabad on Tuesday. VIJAY SONEJI

92 complaints received

Gujarat's Chief Electoral Officer P. Bharathi said that 92 complaints about electronic voting machines, the law and order situation and bogus voting were received at the CEO's control room and those complaints were attended to immediately.

The Congress filed as many as 19 complaints about various issues including bogus voting in Banaskantha and other places. It has also complained to the EC that the Prime Minister held a roadshow when he reached the voting booth in Ranip.

Ms. Bharathi added that three villages namely Kesar in Bharuch district and Sandhara village of Surat district and Bhakhri village of Banaskantha boycotted the voting while a few other villages partially boycotted the voting.

There were no immediate reasons given about why the villages had shunned the polls.

In Amreli, a 45-year-old polling official died of a heart attack while on duty. She had collapsed and was declared "brought dead" at the hospital.

The EC officials said that a total of 4.97 crore people, comprising 2.56 crore men, 2.41 crore women and 1,534 from the transgender community, were registered voters in 50,788 polling booths.

These comprise 17,275 polling booths in urban areas and 33,513 in rural areas.

Polling for 9 seats in M.P. largely peaceful, 66% turnout recorded

Mehul Malpani
BHOPAL

The nine constituencies in Madhya Pradesh – Morena, Bhind, Gwalior, Guna, Rajgarh, Sagar, Vidisha, Bhopal and Betul – that voted in the third phase of the Lok Sabha election on Tuesday recorded an approximate turnout of 66.05%.

Rajgarh reported the highest turnout with 75.39% electors voting, while Bhind in the Chambal division recorded the lowest at 54.87%, show data shared by the Election Commission.

Bhopal recorded a turnout of 62.29%. State's Chief Electoral Officer, Anupam Rajan said the average turnout in the nine constituencies in the 2019 Lok Sabha poll was 66.63%.

Digvijaya's charge

Earlier in the day, Mr. Rajan denied former Chief Minister Digvijaya Singh's claims of EVM malfunction at some polling booths in Rajgarh. In a video message, Mr. Singh said, "In polling booth 24 in Chachaura, 11 votes were cast but the machine is showing 50." He alleged that one of his party workers had been detained by the police and BJP leaders "with more serious charges" were roaming free.

Mr. Rajan said he spoke to the Guna District Collector and found out that no such incident took place.

Voters clicking selfies after casting their vote at a booth in Bhopal on Tuesday. ANI

While voting was peaceful in all nine constituencies, reports of a clash between supporters of two candidates over allegations of bogus voting emerged from a village in Bhind. A police official said four or five people were injured in the incident.

In Morena, the police kept several candidates, including the BJP's Shivmangal Singh Tomar, the Congress's Satyapal Singh Sikarwar and the BSP's Ramesh Garg, in preventive custody. They cast their votes in the evening.

A video from Morena showed a local Congress worker alleging that his family was attacked by BJP workers who tried to stop them from voting. He accused the administration and the police of bias.

Tensions rule high in Maharashtra; man stabbed to death

Shoumojit Banerjee
PUNE

Despite a high-octane campaign for 11 keenly contested seats, Maharashtra witnessed a voter turnout of 61.44% in the third phase of the Lok Sabha election on Tuesday, show provisional data from the Election Commission.

With the prestige of some of the most powerful political families in the State at stake, the tensions between the ruling *Mahayuti* and the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) were reflected on polling day when a man was allegedly stabbed to death while another was injured in a brawl at a polling station in Dharashiv (formerly Osmanabad).

In another incident, a man poured petrol and set afire at least three electronic voting machines (EVMs) at a polling station at Bagalwadi village in the Madha Lok Sabha constituency.

The man, who was seen raising pro-Maratha quota slogans, was arrested by the police.

In the Baramati constituency, the Opposition Nationalist Congress Party (Sharadchandra Pawar) lodged more than 200 complaints against the NCP led by Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar. Veteran leader Sharad Pawar's daughter Supriya Sule is pitted against Mr. Ajit Pawar's wife Sunetra Pawar in Baramati.

On the D-day: NCP (SP) supremo Sharad Pawar at a booth in Malegaon village in Baramati on Tuesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

NCP (SP) MLA Rohit Pawar, who is Sharad Pawar's grandnephew, alleged that a litany of malpractices had been committed by the Ajit Pawar faction, including alleged instances of distribution of cash and threatening of workers of the NCP (SP) faction.

Responding to Mr. Rohit Pawar's allegations, Mr. Ajit Pawar said: "It is the EC's task to ascertain the veracity of such incidents."

High stakes battle

Earlier, Mr. Ajit Pawar, his mother Ashatai Pawar, and Ms. Sunetra Pawar cast their votes in the Pawar's ancestral Katewadi village.

"This is an election where the future of the country is at stake. The development of Baramati hinges on this election," Mr. Ajit Pawar said.

Mr. Sharad Pawar cast his vote in Malegaon village in Baramati along with his daughter Ms. Sule, his wife Pratibha Pawar, and granddaughter Revati Sule.

Several other leaders cast their votes in high-profile seats of Raigad, Ratnagiri, Satara, Kolhapur, Hatkanangale, Solapur, Madha, Dharashiv and Latur. BJP leader and Union Minister Narayan Rane, the ruling *Mahayuti's* candidate for the Ratnagiri-Sindhudurg seat, cast his vote in Kankavli in Sindhudurg.

He is pitted against incumbent MP, Vinayak Raut, of the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena (UBT), who had won the seat in 2014 and 2019.

Repolling to be held at one booth in Barmer

Repolling will be held at a booth at Dudhwa Khurd village in the Barmer Lok Sabha constituency in Rajasthan on Wednesday after complaints were made about the breach of secrecy during the polling on April 26.

Chief Electoral Officer Praveen Gupta said on Tuesday that the repolling would be held from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. for 1,294 voters registered at the station.

The Barmer District Election Officer has suspended four members of the team which had conducted the voting at the booth. Complaints regarding the breach of confidentiality of votes were made after some videos allegedly showing bogus voting and the voters being denied their right to franchise went viral on social media.

There were complaints of breach of secrecy during polling on April 26. REUTERS

BJP expels 28 party members in Arunachal

The Arunachal Pradesh unit of the BJP on Tuesday expelled 28 members for six years for contesting against its official candidates in the Assembly and Lok Sabha polls on April 19. The State has two Lok Sabha constituencies and 60 Assembly seats, 10 of which the BJP won uncontested.

"Consequent upon the recommendation of the State Disciplinary Action Committee, under the Chairmanship of Shri Tarh Tarak, the party hereby expels them [the 28 leaders] for a period of Six (6) Years…," the expulsion order read.

They contested on ticket of the National People's Party headed by Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma, the Nationalist Congress Party, the People's Party of Arunachal, and as Independents.

> The Gandhis never saw Amethi in terms of politics. They considered it their family. I have been associated with this family since 1983
>
> **KISHORI LAL SHARMA**
> Congress candidate

Actor Shekhar Suman, ex-Cong. leader join BJP

Former Congress leader Radhika Khera and actor Shekhar Suman joined the BJP on Tuesday in New Delhi.

Welcoming them, BJP leader Vinod Tawde said he was confident that they will contribute to achieving PM's resolve of making India a developed country. PTI

> PM blamed Naidu in the previous polls for turning Polavaram into an ATM (corruption). The PM who called Naidu corrupt is now praising him
>
> **Y.S. JAGAN MOHAN REDDY**
> Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister

INBRIEF

Fifth accused arrested in Salman Khan firing case

The Mumbai Police's Crime Branch has arrested a fifth accused in connection with the incident in which an armed gang opened fire outside Bollywood star Salman Khan's residence. The arrest was made in Rajasthan, and the suspect is being brought to Mumbai for legal proceedings. Mohammed Rafiq Chaudhary was arrested while he was travelling in a train, a police official said. He will be produced in court to seek remand for further probe. Investigators claim that he is part of jailed gangster Lawrence Bishnoi's gang and allegedly conducted a recce prior to the shooting. Bishnoi's gang claimed responsibility for the attack within hours of the crime on April 14.

AIIMS-Delhi rapidly bringing AI into imaging practice

The Department of Radiodiagnosis and Interventional Radiology at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi is now looking at rapidly integrating modern tools like Artificial Intelligence (AI) into imaging practice, a senior official from the institute said. In a recent statement, the department noted that there had been a substantial surge in the number of procedures performed with total radiology investigations increasing from 3,69,607 to 6,32,106 between 2019-20 and 2023-2024. During the same period, the number of ultrasound scans went up from 70,619 to 93,062; CT scans from 27,044 to 40,044; and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scans from 6,906 to 14,334.

4 held by CBI for pushing Indians into Russia war

Devesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has so far arrested four accused in a case related to trafficking of Indian nationals for combat role in the Russian Army.

Arun and Yesudas Junior, both residents of Thiruvananthapuram, were held on Tuesday in the case registered on March 6. The other two accused, Nijil Jobi Bensam from Kanyakumari and Anthony Michael Elangovan from Mumbai, were earlier arrested on April 24 and are in judicial custody.

On March 6, the agency had busted a human trafficking network spread across several States and in other countries. It targeted gullible youth with the promise of providing lucrative jobs abroad. "These traffickers have been operating as an organised network and were luring Indian nationals through social media channels like YouTube etc. and also through their local contacts/agents for highly-paid jobs in Russia," said the CBI.

The trafficked nationals were trained in combat roles and deployed at front bases in the Russia-Ukraine war against their wishes.

Congress wants to bring back Article 370: Modi at poll rally

Prime Minister also accuses party of disrespecting security personnel who were killed during the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks; reiterates need for 400 LS seats to stop conspiracies of Opposition

Abhinay Deshpande
Mehul Malpani
MUMBAI/BHOPAL

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said he needed 400 seats in the Lok Sabha election to prevent the Congress from "bringing back Article 370 (in Kashmir) and putting a lock on the Ayodhya Ram temple," drawing parallels to the Rajiv Gandhi government overturning the Supreme Court ruling in 1985 in the *Shah Bano* case, which he characterised as appeasement politics.

Speaking at campaign rallies in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra for National Democratic Alliance (NDA) candidates, Mr. Modi accused the Congress of disrespecting the security personnel killed during the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks. He was referring to recent comments by Maharashtra Congress leader Vijay Wadettiwar that the then Anti-Terrorism Squad chief Hemant Karkare was not killed by Pakistani terrorist Ajmal Kasab, but by a Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh-affiliated policeman.

"The sole agenda of INDI alliance is to revive Article 370, scrap CAA [Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019] and do away with free ration supply. A senior Congress leader, who quit the party recently, has revealed that *shehzada* [referring to Wayanad MP Rahul Gandhi] called a meeting of select people after the 2019 SC verdict in the Ram temple case and said if his party comes back to power, the top court decision will be overturned just like his father (Rajiv Gandhi) did in the *Shah Bano* matter," Mr. Modi said.

The Supreme Court, in 1985, had ruled in favour of Shah Bano, a Muslim woman from Indore who had sought maintenance from her husband after divorce, but the then-Rajiv Gandhi government overturned the judgment through an Act.

The Prime Minister said he wanted 400 seats to stop all the conspiracies of the Congress and the INDI alliance.

"Modi needs 400 seats so that the Congress does not bring back Article 370 in Kashmir or put a 'Babri lock' on Ram Temple in Ayodhya or gift away the nation's vacant land and islands to other nations. Modi needs 400 seats so that the Congress does not break into the reservation given to SCs, STs, and OBCs by Baba Saheb [Dr. B.R. Ambedkar] and the Constitution for its vote bank or declare all castes of its vote bank as OBC overnight," Mr. Modi said.

He urged the voters to ensure that the grand old party does not win a single Lok Sabha seat in Maharashtra, stating that June 4, which is counting day, would mark the end of the Opposition alliance. "The BJP and NDA is receiving tremendous support from the people...the third phase of polls has made it clear that June 4 marks the expiry date of the INDI alliance," he said and criticised the grand old party for allegedly supporting terrorists. He questioned the party's vision for the country.

The Prime Minister was campaigning for the BJP's Sujay Vikhe Patil (Ahmednagar), the Shiv Sena's Sadashiv Lokhande (Shirdi), and the party leader Panjaka Munde (Beed).

In Madhya Pradesh's Dhar and Khargone Lok Sabha constituencies, he was addressing rallies for Savitri Thakur and Gajendra Singh Patel, respectively.

The Prime Minister also hit out at Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Lalu Prasad for advocating reservation to the Muslim community.

On a high note: PM Narendra Modi holds a sitar during a public meeting for the Lok Sabha elections in Ahmednagar on Tuesday. ANI

Modi, Lalu Prasad spar over quota for Muslims

Amarnath Tewary
PATNA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) chief Lalu Prasad on Tuesday sparred over the issue of reservations for Muslims, with Mr. Modi accusing the Opposition of being unable to look "beyond appeasement" after Mr. Prasad had supported the idea of reservation for Muslims.

"A person who has been serving sentences for eating up fodder meant for cattle (a reference to the fodder scam), who is out on bail because of poor health, has said just a few hours ago that reservations should be given to Muslims. The gentlemen is revered by the Congress. Just look at their brazenness," Mr. Modi said at an election rally in the Dhar region of Madhya Pradesh.

Mr. Prasad clarified that he suggested reservations on the basis of backwardess as was suggested by the Mandal Commission.

Mr. Prasad said, "I am senior to Narendra Modi (in politics). He does not know many things that I know. It was during my reign that Mandal Commission recommendations were implemented (in Bihar)."

(With PTI inputs)

Mayawati removes her nephew as political heir

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) president Mayawati on Tuesday removed her nephew Akash Anand as her political heir and the party's national coordinator, citing that he needs to reach "maturity" before assuming important roles.

"Along with promoting other people in the party, I declared Shri Akash Anand as the National Coordinator and successor, but in the larger interest of the party and the movement, he is being separated from both these important responsibilities until he attains full maturity," wrote Ms. Mayawati on X.

The former four-time Chief Minister further said Anand Kumar, Akash's father, will continue in his role with the party.

Reject proponents of lies, hatred for a brighter future, Sonia urges voters

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Congress leader Sonia Gandhi on Tuesday alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's *niti* (policy) and *niyat* (intentions) have led to unemployment, crimes against women and discrimination against Dalits, Adivasis and minorities.

In a video appeal to voters on the day of the third phase of polling, Ms. Gandhi, the Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson, asked people to reject the "proponents of lies and hatred" and vote for her party for a "brighter and more equal future".

She said the Congress and INDIA bloc members were committed to defending the Constitution and democracy. "Press the 'hand' button and together let us build a stronger, more united India with peace and harmony for all," Ms. Gandhi said in a video message.

> Our 'Nyay Patra' and guarantees aim to unite our nation and work for the poor, youth, women, farmers, workers and the disadvantaged communities of India
>
> **SONIA GANDHI**
> Congress leader

"Youth unemployment, crimes against women and discrimination against Dalits, Adivasis and minorities have reached unprecedented levels. These challenges stem from the *niyat* and *niti* of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP which aim for power, rejecting inclusivity and dialogue," she said.

The former Congress chief said the sight of the Constitution and democracy being under threat, the poor being left behind and "the fabric of our society being torn apart" fills her with anguish.

"Today, I ask for your support once again. Our 'Nyay Patra' and guarantees aim to unite our nation and work for the poor, youth, women, farmers, workers and the disadvantaged communities of India. The Congress and the INDIA (bloc) parties are committed to defending our Constitution and democracy," Ms. Gandhi said.

Sharing the party's assessment of the voting in 283 seats so far, Congress general secretary (organisation) Jairam Ramesh, in a post on X, said: "It is very clear that for the BJP, it is South mein Saaf, North mein Half [it will be wiped out in South, numbers will halve in North]".

"Consequently, the PM is betraying increasing signs of nervousness. His language is getting more and more desperate. He is spreading a pandemic of lies, and he's truly resorted to running a 3D election campaign – to Distort, Divert, and Defame," he said. The Congress leader said the BJP and the Prime Minister have not had any positive campaign and "Modi ki Guarantee -- which the PM liberally used public funds to peddle - has been given a silent burial".

Congress chief criticises EC, questions whether panel is trying to 'doctor' final results

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Casting doubts on the Election Commission's functioning and criticising the panel for not publishing actual voting data, the delay in releasing poll turnout data, and the non-publication of the final voters' lists for the upcoming phases, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge wondered whether all this was an effort to "doctor" the final results.

In a letter to leaders of all INDIA bloc parties, Mr. Kharge called upon them to "collectively, unitedly and unequivocally" raise their voice against such "discrepancies" in a bid to protect the culture of a "vibrant democracy and the Constitution".

Criticising the delay in publishing the final voter turnout statistics, which came 11 days after the first phase and four days after the second phase of the Lok Sabha election on April 30, Mr. Kharge said that the "credibility of EC is at an all time low" and the delay raised doubts on the quality of data.

Mr. Kharge said EC had not explained the reason for delay in releasing data on voter turnout

The election panel, Mr. Kharge said, had not explained why there was a delay in releasing data on the voter turnout, considering the norm so far had been to publish it within 24 hours of polling.

The provisional polling percentages for the first phase, released at 7 p.m. on April 19 for 102 seats, was about 60%, and for the second phase on April 26 for 88 seats was 60.96%. But the final figures released on April 30 for the first phase stood at 66.14%, and at 66.71% for the second phase. he wanted the ECI to explain this surge in polling percentages.

Apart from the delay, the Congress president noted that the voter turnout data released by the EC did not mention "crucial yet related figures", such as the votes polled in each parliamentary constituency and in the respective Assembly seats.

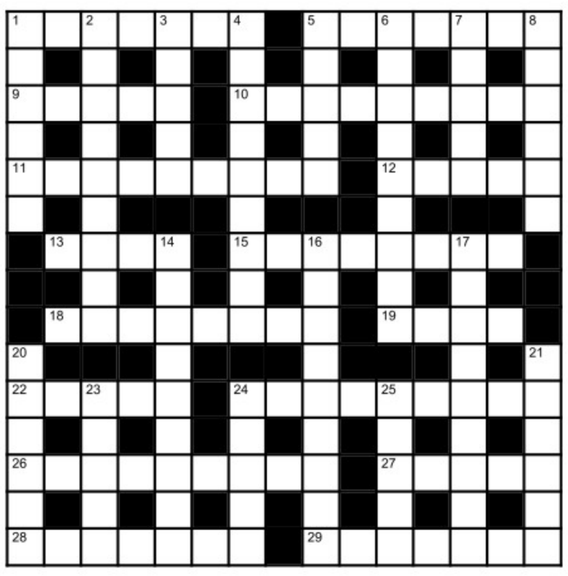
Pointing to media reports, Mr. Kharge said the final registered voters' list of the next phases had not been made public.

TH CROSSWORD + 14169

(set by Arden)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Dubious income, middleman gets compliments (7)
5 Material, money and God (7)
9 Money gets woman or two (5)
10 Saga, regularly being turned into a hotbed of trouble (9)
11 Stop team sport and win the game (9)
12 Mushroom with lemon on top - I hear a noise from my empty stomach (5)
13 Mount to withdraw a bet (4)
15 American shot, no one allowed in the courtroom (2,6)
18 Fear about hospital wing makes one conk out (8)
19 No regular wash for a boatman (4)
22 No whiskey in season, keep it underground (5)
24 Ultimate in music, song about festival is a mess (9)
26 Rejected players, a team supports them (4,5)
27 No going into depression - wine maker's pick (5)
28 Opposite sides protect rubber ring, top end is plastic (7)
29 Issue over eBay supplied food stuff (7)

Down

1 Cajole to be part of the training (6)
2 Enclosure around ex-president Bush, in Australia, perhaps (9)
3 Kolinsky takes head of state to the capital (5)
4 Chemical - one made it explode (9)
5 Salt water injected right into the plant stem (5)
6 Extremely controversial, Germany replaced minister (9)
7 Relationship with a model in port (5)
8 Travelling miles to eat universal breakfast in Geneva (6)
14 Like a bit before Arden, that's sweet! (9)
16 Fish fries - perhaps bring in Indian law makers (9)
17 Shift and cover under bum (9)
20 Mostly talk about an Olympic event (6)
21 Able to cover the rear wearing this? (6)
23 The United States typically gets cranky (5)
24 Took refuge in church, gets censure (5)
25 High points by day's end (5)

SUDOKU

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	6					2		5

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

S	T	O	P	G	A	P	S		T	I	M	B	E	R
E		R		A		I		S		D		U		E
S	T	E	P	S	O	N		E	V	E	N	S	U	P
A		G		L		D		N		A		T		U
M	A	O	R	I		R	E	I	N	S	T	A	L	L
E		N		G		O		L				G		S
			C	H	A	P	T	E	R	H	O	U	S	E
B		A		T		S		D		E		T		D
A	R	M	I	S	T	I	C	E	D	A	Y			
C		E				L		M		D		M		M
C	A	N	T	O	N	E	S	E		S	T	Y	L	E
A		A		U		N		N		T		T		N
R	O	B	O	T	I	C		T	R	A	C	H	E	A
A		L		D		E		I		R		I		C
T	R	E	M	O	R		C	A	N	T	I	C	L	E

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

2	8	5	7	1	4	6	9	3
9	7	3	6	5	8	1	2	4
1	6	4	2	9	3	5	8	7
8	5	6	1	4	9	3	7	2
7	2	9	5	3	6	8	4	1
4	3	1	8	7	2	9	5	6
5	4	2	3	8	1	7	6	9
3	9	8	4	6	7	2	1	5
6	1	7	9	2	5	4	3	8

FAITH

Drona's help sought

When the Pandavas are defeated by Sakuni in the game of dice, they are forced to go to the forest, having lost their kingdom and possessions. But Duryodhana is afraid when Narada says the Kauravas will be killed by the Pandavas. He seeks Drona's protection, said Kidambi Narayanan in a discourse.

Drona says that because the Kauravas have surrendered to him, he is duty-bound to protect them. But he has his limitations. He has earned the enmity of his former friend Drupada. Drupada performed a yaga, and from the fire had arisen his son Dhrishtadyumna. Dhrishtadyumna was blessed by Agni with an armour, and with a bow and arrows, all of which glowed like the fire god himself. The purpose of Dhrishtadyumna's birth was the killing of Drona. Drona knows that if he has to face Dhrishtadyumna in battle, the latter will kill him. Yet, he has to offer his protection to the Kauravas. He tells Druyodhana that he should not think that hostilities have ended with the banishing of the Pandavas from the kingdom. When the Pandavas return, their hearts will be full of vengeance against those who had caused them sorrow. The Pandavas are invincible, says Drona. Moreover, Dhrishtadyumna is their brother-in-law and they will have his support, if war breaks out between the Pandavas and Kauravas.

INBRIEF

Wabag bags repeat order for €34-mn WTP in Tunisia

Chennai-based VA Tech Wabag Ltd. (Wabag) has secured a repeat order valued at €34 million from Office National De L'assainissement (ONAS) for a 36 MLD Wastewater Treatment Plant (WTP) at Sousse Hamdoun II, Tunisia. The project, funded by the French Development Agency, the European Investment Bank and the European Union, would be executed over a period of two years, followed by a 12-month operation and maintenance period, Wabag said in a statement.

EMotorad to set up electric cycle gigafactory in Pune

EMotorad, which is into manufacturing of e-cycles, has announced setting up of an e-cycle gigafactory in Pune for an unspecified amount. To be spread over 2,40,000 sq. ft in phase 1, the new facility, to be operational in August 2024, would focus on manufacturing components such as battery, motor, display, and charger. With an initial production capacity of 5 lakh e-cycles every year, the gigafactory will meet the demand from India and the world market, the firm said.

Rane Engine Valve standalone Q4 net shrinks 2.5% to ₹4.7 cr.

Rane Engine Valve Ltd.'s (REVL) standalone net profit for the quarter ended March contracted 2.5% YoY to ₹4.74 crore due to one-time exceptional charges. Revenue from operations rose 10% to ₹150 crore. The results also included exceptional item of ₹4.20 crore pertaining to customer quality claims and merger related expenses, the maker of engine valves, guides and tappets said. The board recommended a dividend of ₹5 per share, to be paid by August 1.

Colombo fixes price for Adani power

Sri Lanka's Cabinet clears 20-year power purchase deal at 8.26 cents/kWh from Adani Green Energy's wind power project in Mannar and Pooneryn in the island's Northern Province; South Asian country to make payments in Sri Lankan Rupees

Meera Srinivasan
COLOMBO

Sri Lanka has agreed to purchase power at $0.0826, or 8.26 cents, per kWh from Adani Green Energy, which is executing a wind power project in Mannar and Pooneryn in the island's Northern Province.

The country's Cabinet cleared a proposal on Monday for a 20-year power purchase agreement with Adani Green Energy for the development of wind power stations to produce 484 MW of power. "On the current exchange rate considered as 1 $ = [Sri Lankan] ₹300, the cost of energy will be ₹24.78 per kWh," Minister of Power and Energy Kanchana Wijesekera said on 'X' on Tuesday.

"The current average cost of energy in SL is ₹39.02 per kWh," he added.

While Sri Lanka would pay in Sri Lankan Rupees, based on the prevailing exchange rate at the time of payment, according to the minister, details of clauses on possible revisions in rates were awaited.

Sri Lanka generates about 4,200 MW of power a year, and authorities have pledged to add another 2,800 MW to the national grid through renewable energy sources over the next three years. In 25 years, the island aims to generate all of its energy through renewable energy.

The $442-million wind power plant is the Adani Group's second major investment in Sri Lanka, after its $700 million investment in the West Container Terminal at the strategic Colombo port.

The proposed renewable energy plant in the Northern Province earlier sparked controversy over the process followed by Colombo to select the company. More recently, residents of Mannar and environmentalists voiced apprehensions that the project could adversely impact biodiversity and local livelihoods in the area. Authorities and Adani Green, in turn, said they had factored in environmental considerations before finalising the project.

Power deal

Sri Lanka's PPA with Adani Green Energy will facilitate development of wind power units to produce 484 MW of electricity

- Based on current exchange rate, cost of energy will be LKR24.78/kWh: minister posts on X
- Country aims to add 2,800 MW to national grid through renewable energy

The $442-mn wind power plant is Adani Group's second major investment in Sri Lanka

'FMCG industry saw 6.5% volume growth in March quarter'

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Indian FMCG industry experienced a 6.5% growth in volume terms at the national level in the January-March period of 2024, with rural consumption surpassing urban for the first time in five quarters, according to consumer intelligence firm NielsenIQ.

Both food and non-food sectors contributed to the growth in consumption in the first quarter of 2024, but non-food saw almost double the growth as compared with food, NielsenIQ (NIQ) said in its quarterly snapshot for Q1 2024.

The FMCG industry has experienced a 6.6% growth in value, attributed to a 6.5% increase in volume at an all-India level. The volume growth for this quarter was higher than Q1 2023, which stood at 3.1%, it added.

NIQ Head of Customer Success India, Roosevelt Dsouza said, "The FMCG industry's growth continues to be driven by consumption trends in Q12024 with rural areas surpassing urban growth for the first time in five quarters."

Sumitomo Mitsui invests ₹1,300 crore in SMFG India

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Japan's Sumitomo Mitsui Financial Group Inc. (SMFG) said it had invested ₹1,300 crore in SMFG India Credit Co. Ltd. (SMICC) (formerly Fullerton India Credit Co. Ltd.) through rights issue.

SMICC, in turn, invested ₹150 crore in its wholly owned subsidiary SMFG India Home Finance Co. Ltd. (Formerly Fullerton India Home Finance Co. Ltd.) to bring affordable housing-finance solutions to the underserved population in the country.

'Indian Bank to focus on achieving targets'

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

S.L. Jain

Indian Bank is planning to retain more or less the same double-digit growth targets in terms of deposits and advances during FY25, said a top official.

"Last fiscal, we set a deposit target of 8-10% and achieved 11%," MD and CEO S.L. Jain said. "Credit-growth target was kept at 10-12% and we did 13%."

For FY25, the public sector lender has pegged deposit growth at 8-10% and credit growth in the region of 11-13%. "We want to keep the growth target small and achieve it," he added.

He said Retail, Agriculture and MSME (RAM) sector's contribution to gross domestic advances will increase to 63% from 62% while corporate advances would constitute 37%.

On bad debts, he said, "Last year, we had set a target of ₹8,000 crore and recovered more than ₹8,799 crore. This year, we plan to recover ₹8,000 crore."

DRL Q4 net rises 36%, to pay ₹40 dividend

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Dr. Reddy's Laboratories (DRL) reported consolidated net profit rose 36% year-on-year to ₹1,309.8 crore for the quarter ended March on the back of growth in global generics revenue in the all important North America as well as emerging markets.

The increase, from the ₹960.1 crore posted in the year-earlier period, came on an almost 13% rise in revenue from operations during the fourth quarter to ₹7,113.8 crore, results prepared as per Indian Accounting Standards show.

On a sequential basis, revenue slid almost 2% and net profit was 5% lower. The company attributed the decline, quarter-on-quarter, primarily to lower global generics revenue in North America, Emerging Markets and India.

DRL declared a final dividend of ₹40 per equity share of ₹5 each for the financial year 2023-24.

Strong performance in North America, Europe and Emerging Markets helped DRL log almost 14% rise in revenue from operations during FY24 to ₹28,011.10 crore. Net profit rose 24% to ₹5,577.9 crore.

'India has 13 mn sq. ft of ghost shopping centres in 29 cities'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

India has 13.3 million square feet of 'ghost shopping infrastructure' across 29 cities that led to a loss of $798 million in CY2023, reports Knight Frank India in a wide ranging survey.

Categorising "low performing retail assets" as ghost retail, the real-estate firm estimated a 59% YoY rise in such real estate since 2022 in the "prime markets" while their numbers rose to 64 by the end of 2023 from 57 in 2022.

As many as 16 shopping centres were permanently shuttered in these cities in 2023 and their total reduced to 263, the firm said in a study titled 'Think India Think Retail 2024', released on Tuesday.

Sharpest rise in Kolkata

National Capital Region (NCR) accounted for the highest Ghost Shopping Centre stock of 5.3 mn sq. ft (up 58% YoY), followed by Mumbai with 2.1 mn sq. ft (up 86% YoY) and Bengaluru with 2 mn sq. ft (rise of 46% YoY). Hyderabad is the only city to record a decline in the Ghost Shopping Centre stock by 19% YoY to 0.9 mn sq. ft.

The sharpest rise in Ghost Shopping Centres was recorded in Kolkata at 237%, or more than threefold, albeit on a lower base, Knight Frank said.

Airfares sliding compared with last year, signals Scoot's Thng

Jagriti Chandra
SINGAPORE

Leslie Thng

Airfares this summer travel season show signs of a slide as compared with last year, when the lifting of COVID-19 travel restrictions after a gap of two years led to a massive booking surge from passengers, but remain higher than pre-pandemic levels, CEO of Scoot, Leslie Thng, signalled.

The budget arm of Singapore Airlines (SIA) has reached comparable levels of capacity for the Indian market with 43 weekly flights, and has "recovered beyond" 2019 levels across its global network, Mr. Thng told journalists.

After reporting record profit in 2022-2023 (S$43.5 million) after four years of losses, and continuing to clock profit in the first three quarters of financial year 2024, the airline expects to maintain the trend though "the operational environment is more challenging as competitors have put more capacity," the CEO said. This had also resulted in "the softening of yields", which are lower than 2023 levels but remain higher than 2019 levels, he said. Yields refer to revenue/passenger/km.

Mr. Thng was speaking at launch of its inaugural Embraer E190-E2 flights to Krabi and Hat Yai. Scoot has taken delivery of two of the Brazilian manufacturer's aircraft out of the nine it has ordered, which will all be added to its fleet by the end of 2025. The planes will help connect to six destinations, of which Koh Samui and Sibu are new to Scoot's network.

(The writer was in Singapore at the invitation of SIA's budget airline)

Allow exports as output to exceed demand: ISMA

The Hindu Bureau
COIMBATORE

Expecting this sugar season's (Sept. 23 - Oct. 24) output to exceed demand, India's sugar producers are demanding 20 lakh tonnes be allowed to be exported.

The Indian Sugar and Bio-Energy Manufacturers Association (ISMA) said output reached 314 lakh tonnes in seven months of the current season.

ISMA said in a statement 516 factories have stopped crushing operations and that only 16 were functioning, leading to additional costs for millers on account of idle inventory.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	TUESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	73,512	-0.52
US Dollar	83.51	0.01
Gold	72,450	0.27
Brent oil	82.94	-0.95

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2835.95	-38.70
Adani Ports	1287.65	-2.30
Apollo Hosp	5900.25	-156.45
Asian Paints	2913.00	-19.15
Axis Bank	1127.70	-15.95
Bajaj Auto	8677.90	-374.65
Bajaj Finserv	1615.15	3.80
Bajaj Finance	6872.55	12.70
Bharti Airtel	1286.15	2.75
BPCL	604.30	-5.95
Britannia Ind	5173.85	112.25
Cipla	1387.20	-36.20
Coal India	456.00	-4.60
Divis Lab	3911.40	-51.60
Dr Reddys Lab	6257.60	-35.85
Eicher Motors	4622.40	23.40
Grasim Ind	2421.00	-32.30
HCL Tech	1330.95	-27.85
HDFC Bank	1506.15	-16.50
HDFC Life	552.35	-2.70
Hero MotoCorp	4476.75	-33.00
Hindalco	620.20	-18.60
Hind Unilever	2379.40	123.20
ICICI Bank	1131.90	-14.40
IndusInd Bank	1452.55	-44.95
Infosys	1440.95	15.05
ITC	440.35	5.60
JSW Steel	857.35	-23.30
Kotak Bank	1643.90	19.60
L&T	3427.75	-35.55
LTIMindtree Ltd.	4699.40	-4.55
M&M	2191.50	-33.45
Maruti Suzuki	12364.05	-75.25
NestleIndia	2508.65	51.25
NTPC	349.15	-7.65
ONGC	273.60	-8.55
PowerGrid Corp	295.25	-11.60
Reliance Ind	2802.95	-36.10
SBI Life	1450.15	9.55
State Bank	801.90	-5.90
Shriram Finance Ltd.	2485.80	-61.75
Sun Pharma	1515.35	-13.80
TataConsumerProduct	1099.40	1.25
Tata Motors	988.55	-27.65
Tata Steel	164.25	-3.35
TCS	3978.95	57.90
Tech Mahindra	1292.45	30.20
Titan	3270.90	-9.25
UltraTech Cement	9682.40	-94.50
Wipro	463.90	5.25

EXCHANGE RATES

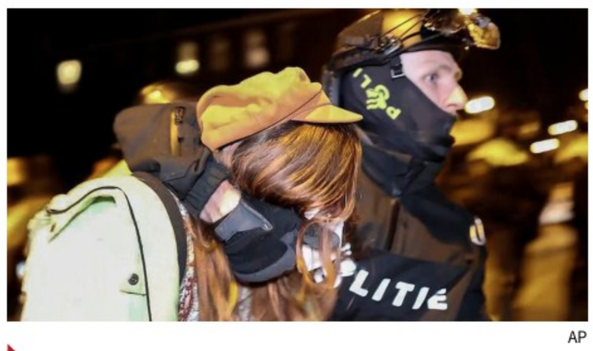
Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on May 07

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	83.31	83.63
Euro	89.71	90.06
British Pound	104.50	104.90
Japanese Yen (100)	53.91	54.12
Chinese Yuan	11.54	11.59
Swiss Franc	91.79	92.15
Singapore Dollar	61.56	61.80
Canadian Dollar	60.88	61.14
Malaysian Ringitt	17.58	17.65
Australian Dollar	55.04	55.25

Source:Indian Bank

AMSTERDAM

Police break up pro-Palestinian demo at Amsterdam University

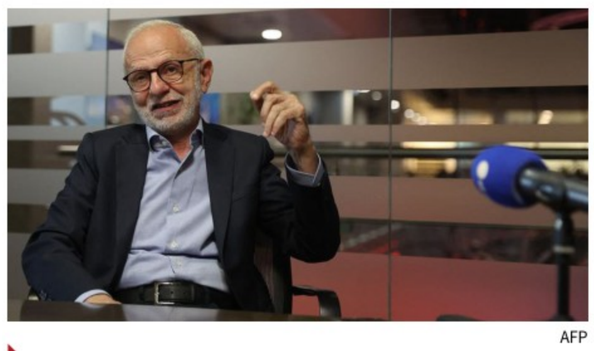


AP

The police forcibly broke up a pro-Palestinian demonstration at the University of Amsterdam, arresting more than 120 and dismantling barricades erected by protesters inspired by similar demonstrations on campuses around the world. The police began releasing some of those arrested but dozens were still in custody. AFP

DOHA

Al Jazeera to pursue legal action 'until the end' over Israel ban

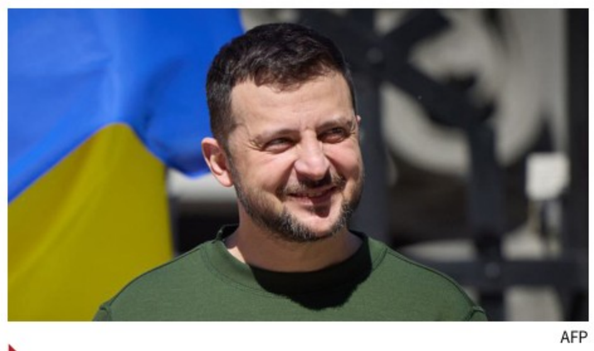


AFP

Al Jazeera will pursue all possible legal action "until the end" to challenge Israel's ban on its operations there, the TV network's news director Salah Negm said. The Qatar-based news station was taken off air in Israel after Benjamin Netanyahu's government voted on Sunday to shut it down over its coverage of the Gaza war. AFP

KYIV

Ukraine says it thwarted a Russian-led plot to kill Zelenskyy



AFP

Ukraine said it detained two Ukrainian security officials involved in a plot coordinated by Russia to assassinate senior Ukrainian officials, including President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. Kyiv says Mr. Zelenskyy has been targeted by Russia on multiple occasions, including at the start of the Russian invasion in February 2022. AFP

TAIPEI

Taiwan says four Chinese ships entered 'prohibited' waters

AFP

Four Chinese coastguard ships briefly sailed through Taiwan's "prohibited" waters, Taipei said, urging Beijing to stop actions that "endanger" navigation safety. China claims self-ruled democratic Taiwan as part of its territory, and has said it will not rule out using force to bring the island under Beijing's control. AFP

Afghan man behind blast that killed 5 Chinese: Pak.

Associated Press
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's military on Tuesday said a suicide bombing that killed five Chinese engineers and a Pakistani driver in March was planned in Afghanistan and that the bomber was an Afghan citizen.

At a news conference, Army spokesman Maj. Gen. Ahmad Sharif said four men behind the March 26 attack in Bisham, a district in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, had been been arrested.

Mr. Sharif said the attack that killed the Chinese engineers, who were working on Pakistan's biggest Dasu Dam, was an attempt to harm friendship between Pakistan and China. Mr. Sharif also said Pakistani Taliban who have sanctuaries in Afghanistan were behind a surge in attacks in Pakistan since January.

Hostage families seek foreign pressure for Gaza ceasefire

Hostages and Missing Families Forum tells govts. that 'this is the time to exert influence on the Israeli government and all other parties concerned to ensure that the agreement comes through'

Agence France-Presse
JERUSALEM

Families of hostages held in Gaza have urged the United States and other governments with citizens among the captives to pressure Israel to strike a deal with Hamas for their return.

Following indications on Monday of progress in talks towards a truce in the seven-month war, the Hostages and Missing Families Forum said it had appealed to a number of countries to "exert your influence on the Israeli government" and push for an agreement.

"At this crucial moment, while a tangible opportunity for the release of the hostages is on the table, it is of the utmost importance that your government manifest its strong support for such an agreement," the group said in a message sent to the Ambassadors of all countries with citizens among the hostages seized by Palestinian militants on October 7.

No solution: People walk past a poster of a hostage kidnapped by Hamas, in Tel Aviv in Israel on Tuesday. REUTERS

"This is the time to exert your influence on the Israeli government and all other parties concerned to ensure that the agreement comes through which will finally bring all our loved ones home."

During the October 7 attack that sparked the brutal war in Gaza, Palestinian militants seized around 250 hostages, who included foreigners and dual nationals, among them U.S., Thai, French, British and Russian citizens.

Hostage families have been among those pressing through repeated protests for Israel to reach a deal with Hamas to bring home the captives.

No breakthrough

Despite months of shuttle diplomacy, mediators have so far failed to broker a new truce like the weeklong ceasefire that saw 105 hostages released last November, the Israelis among them in exchange for Palestinian prisoners held by Israel.

Previous negotiation efforts had stalled in part because of Hamas's demand for a lasting ceasefire and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's vows to crush its remaining fighters in Rafah.

Putin, launching fifth term, promises Russians victory

Agence France-Presse
MOSCOW

President Vladimir Putin vowed at a lavish inauguration on Tuesday to deliver victory to Russians, embarking on a record-breaking fifth term with more power than ever.

Mr. Putin, however, conceded that Russia was going through a "difficult" period, an apparent reference to the unprecedented sanctions packages the West has imposed on Moscow for having launched full-scale military hostilities in Ukraine more than two years ago.

The 71-year-old Kremlin chief has ruled Russia since the turn of the century, securing a fresh six-year mandate in March after winning presidential elections devoid of all opposition.

The highly-orchestrated inauguration ceremony, which included a military procession and Orthodox prayer service, was broadcast live on major Russian television channels.

Crowning moment: Vladimir Putin, right, and Russia's Orthodox Patriarch Kirill attend a service in Moscow on Tuesday. AFP

European countries including Poland, Germany and the Czech Republic signalled they would not send representatives amid soured tensions over the conflict in Ukraine.

"We are a united and great nation, and together we will overcome all obstacles, realise everything we have planned, and together, we will win," the Russian leader said after being sworn in to office.

Mr. Putin, who has said his forces will be victorious in Ukraine, whatever the cost, said the country would emerge "with dignity and become even stronger". After standing alone in the rain and overseeing columns of armed guards and calvary parade in ceremonial uniform, Mr. Putin was blessed by the leader of the Orthodox Chuch, Patriarch Kirill.

Scotland parliament approves SNP's John Swinney as new First Minister

Agence France-Presse
LONDON

Scotland got its second leader in as many years on Tuesday, as parliament approved political veteran John Swinney to lead the country as First Minister.

Mr. Swinney, 60, succeeds Humza Yousaf, who formally resigned from the role earlier in the day, following his announcement last week that he would step down after just over a year in charge.

Mr. Yousaf, 39, announced his resignation last Monday before a confidence vote in the Scottish parliament that he was set to lose, having ditched his junior coalition partners, the Scottish Green Party, in a row over climate policy.

Fresh start: John Swinney speaks to the media after being voted in as First Minister at the Scottish parliament in Edinburgh. AP

Mr. Swinney won the backing of 64 members of the Scottish parliament (MSPs) in the vote that was all but a foregone conclusion, with nearest rival Scottish Conservatives leader Douglas Ross picking up 31.

The Scottish political veteran, said it was "something of a surprise" to find himself taking the top job at his stage of his career, but added it was "an extraordinary privilege".

Mr. Swinney, an old party hand who led the ruling pro-independence Scottish National Party (SNP) from 2000 to 2004 when the nationalists were in opposition, was elected unopposed as leader of the SNP on Monday.

He is seen as an experienced operator able to reach across the political divide, which is key to the SNP being able to rule as a minority government.

Mr. Swinney must also unite his divided party, split between those on the left supportive of trans rights and urgent climate action and members on the right wanting to focus on issues such as health and the economy. He has said that alongside advancing the case for Scottish independence, he wants to eradicate child poverty.

Macron hosts Xi in French mountains for further talks

Agence France-Presse
TARBES

French President Emmanuel Macron was on Tuesday hosting Chinese leader Xi Jinping at one of his beloved childhood haunts in the Pyrenees mountains, pressing a message to Beijing not to support Russia's war against Ukraine and to accept fairer trade.

The first day of Mr. Xi's state visit to France, his first to Europe since 2019, saw respectful but sometimes robust exchanges between the two men during a succession of talks on Monday.

The peaceful mountain village of Bagnere-de-Bigorre and nearby La Mongie – as well as lunch accompanied by their wives, Peng Liyuan and Brigitte Macron – will allow Mr. Xi and Mr. Macron to explore these issues in relative privacy.

Mr. Macron personally welcomed Mr. Xi when he arrived at Tarbes airport in southwest France and the leaders headed to a mountain restaurant to dine on local lamb, cheeses and wines.

Europe is concerned that while officially neutral over the Ukraine conflict, Beijing is essentially backing Russia, which is using Chinese machine tools for weapons production.

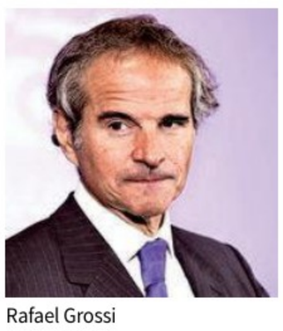
After a bilateral meeting with Mr. Xi, Mr. Macron welcomed China's "commitments" not to supply arms to Russia, while also expressing concern over possible deliveries of dual-use technology.

UN atomic chief urges Iran to take 'concrete' steps for cooperation

Agence France-Presse
ISFAHAN

UN atomic watchdog chief Rafael Grossi, visiting Iran on Tuesday, urged the country to adopt "concrete" measures to bolster cooperation on its nuclear programme and address the international community's concerns.

At a news conference in the city of Isfahan, Mr. Grossi said he had proposed in talks with Iranian officials that they "focus on the very concrete, very practical and tangible measures that can be implemented in order to accelerate" cooperation.



Rafael Grossi

The International Atomic Energy Agency director-general held talks with senior Iranian officials including Atomic Energy Organization's head Mohammad Eslami.

Settling differences

Mr. Grossi insisted on the need to "settle differences" on the nuclear issue while West Asia was going through "difficult times", particularly with the war between Israel and the Iran-backed Palestinian militant group Hamas in the Gaza Strip. "Sometimes, political conditions pose obstacles to full-fledged cooperation" between Iran and the international community, he said.

To overcome these obstacles, he said, "we need to come up with concrete steps that are going to be helpful in bringing us closer to these solutions that we all need".

Mr. Grossi said a March 2023 deal with Iran was "still valid" but required more "substance".

The agreement was reached during Mr. Grossi's last visit to Iran and outlined basic cooperation measures including on safeguards and monitoring.

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Applications are invited from the eligible Foreign Nationals/Persons of Indian Origin/ Children of Indian Workers in Gulf Countries/Non Resident Indian candidates seeking admission into **B.Tech/B.Tech (IDP)/BBA (Data Analytics)/BBA (Regular)/M.Tech/ M.Sc/MBA/MCA/M.Pharmacy/Ph.D** courses for the Academic Year 2024-25. The application form is available in the DUFR office or it can be **download** from the website or apply through **online application** available on the University website **www.jntuhdufr.com, www.jntuh.ac.in**. The filled in applicaion is to be submitted along with required documents and a DD of **Rs.1000/-** in favour of **"The Registrar, UFR Account, JNTUH", payable at Hyderabad**. For further details **www.jntuhdufr.com, www.jntuh.ac.in**.
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The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd
(A Govt. Of kerala Undertaking) Sankaramangalam, Kollam 691583,
Phone : 0476-2651215 to 217, E-Mail: md@kmml.com
TENDER NOTICE
For more details please visit E-Tendering Portal, https://etenders.kerala.gov.in or www.kmml.com

Sl No	Tender Id	Items
1	2024_KMML_672384_1	For Project Management Consultancy service required for the work of execution of the proposed brown field project (EPC basis) for Modernization and improvement of recovery in the Mineral Separation Unit in KMML,Chavara

Chavara 07.05.2024 Sd/- Managing Director for The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd

KMF Karnataka Cooperative Milk Producers' Federation Limited
KMF Complex, Dr. M. H. Marigowda Road, DRC Post, Bangalore-560 029.
Tel: 080-25536625 / 26096888, e-mail : engg@kmf.coop
IFT No: KMF/ENGG/PIBOs_EPR_PWM_Call3/2024-25 Date: 07-05-2024
SHORT TERM RETENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System) (Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)
Karnataka Milk Federation Ltd; Bengaluru invites tenders from the eligible CPCB Authorized Post Consumer Plastic Waste Recyclers / Waste Collection Agencies / any other eligible companies who are in the similar business through KPPP for the works mentioned in the table below. The interested Waste Collection Agencies & any other eligible companies who have executed similar kind of works may participate in the tender as indicated below, by logging on to website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in and also contact Help desk E-mail: hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com, support@eprochelpdesk.com and helpline no. +91-8046010000, +91-8068948777, 080-22230960, 080-22234115

Sl No.	Name of the work	Tender Quantity (MTPA)	EMD (Rs)
1	EPR Fulfillment / Plastic Waste Management by way of Collection, Segregation & Recycling of Post-Consumer Plastic Waste generated by KMF & its Member Milk Unions & Units Across PAN India. The entire activities shall be managed in confirmation to Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016 along with Annual Filing for the year 2023-24 (LDPE/LLDPE/PE/MLP/Tetra Pak Paperboard Cartons / waste Film of Milk, Curd, Ghee, Butter Milk and Lassi etc – Pouch Milk, UHT Milk & Fresh Products Packaging Waste-All category Plastic Waste)	Approx 16000	6,00,000/-

1) Tender schedules may be downloaded from dated 08-05-2024 to 28-05-2024 up to 4-00 pm.
2) Last date for Tender submission on date: 28-05-2024 up to 4.00 pm.
3) Tender [Part 1] to be opened on date: 29-05-2024 at 4.30 pm.
Any Modifications / changes in the Bid Document / Tender Specification / Tender Schedule will be uploaded in KPPP Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in Only.
For KARNATAKA MILK FEDERATION LTD,
Sd/- Director [Engineering]-1

PRIORITIES

Rohit needs a break to freshen up ahead of T20 World Cup: Clarke

EMMANUAL YOGINI

Michael Clarke suggested that Rohit Sharma should take a break ahead of the T20 World Cup. "Rohit, being the wise judge of his own performances, will undoubtedly be disappointed, especially considering his strong start. A break to freshen up could do wonders for Rohit," Clarke told *Star Sports*.

PROLIFIC

Suryakumar equals Rohit's record of most centuries for MI in the IPL

EMMANUAL YOGINI

Suryakumar Yadav equalled Rohit Sharma's record of most centuries for Mumbai Indians in the Indian Premier League. Both Rohit and Suryakumar have two IPL centuries each for MI. Sachin Tendulkar, Sanath Jayasuriya, Lendl Simmons and Cameron Green have a century each for MI.

ASSET

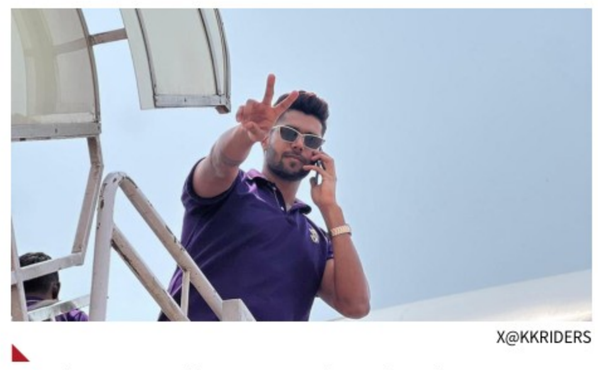
No plans to rest Bumrah yet, says Mumbai Indians' Pollard

EMMANUAL YOGINI

Mumbai Indians has no plans to rest Jasprit Bumrah ahead of the T20 World Cup, said batting coach Kieron Pollard. "I certainly haven't had any discussions about that... we are all here to play an entire IPL. Sometimes when we think too far ahead and all these things could affect performances," Pollard said.

TURN OF EVENTS

KKR players endure flight diversions due to bad weather



X@KKRIDERS

KKR players returned home on Tuesday, ending a harrowing experience as they were forced to spend a night at Varanasi after their flight from Lucknow to Kolkata was diverted multiple times due to bad weather. The charter flight had to be diverted to Guwahati first and then to Varanasi.

Flamboyant Capitals hunt down Royals despite Samson's heroics

DC's 221 for eight is its third consecutive 200+ total at the venue; Fraser-McGurk, Porel notch up quickfire fifties; RR skipper's 46-ball 86 goes in vain without solid support from the other end; Kuldeep's two for 25 helps Pant's men claim a 20-run victory and stay afloat in the race for a playoff spot

IPL-17

Pranay Rajiv
NEW DELHI

Delhi Capitals braved a storming knock from Rajasthan Royals' skipper Sanju Samson to clinch a vital win in IPL 2024 at the Arun Jaitley Stadium here on Tuesday.

After being sent out to bat, DC scored an imposing 221 for eight, before restricting the Royals to 201 for eight.

Samson's efforts, a free-flowing 46-ball 86, though were not reciprocated by his fellow batters as the Royals crashed to their second consecutive defeat.

Team effort: DC's bowlers did just enough to clinch a win on a pitch that saw the batters, led by Samson, do most of the talking. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

On the right note

DC's defence began on the right note with Royals openers Yashasvi Jaiswal and Jos Buttler falling inside the PowerPlay.

Meanwhile, Samson raced to 41 off his 16 balls, attacking the DC pacers with scant respect. The right-handed batter was watchful against the home spinners on a surface that offered grip and turn, before launching a second charge against the quicker bowlers.

Contested decision

The game's turning point came when Samson was dismissed by Mukesh Kumar, off a contested decision.

The Royals claimed Shai Hope had touched the boundary rope at long-on after completing the catch. The on-field umpires stuck to the decision made by the third umpire, despite Samson's protests.

Rovman Powell and Shubham Dubey kept the battle alive with some big hits. But in the end, it was a bridge too far for the Royals as DC secured its sixth win of the tournament.

Openers sizzle

DC's batting salvo was led by fifties from openers Jake Fraser-McGurk and Abhishek Porel, as the home side accounted for its third 200+ score at the venue.

R. Ashwin was the only Royals bowler who held his own, with the experienced off-spinner ending with his best bowling figures of the season (three for 24)

Fraser-McGurk was the one who first lit the fuse as he sizzled to a 19-ball fifty.

Just when the Aussie batter threatened to take the game away, he chipped an innocuous high full-toss from Ashwin straight to cover. Porel took over from there, with the 21-year-old scoring his maiden IPL fifty.

DC's innings found a late flourish through Tristan Stubbs, who took his side to 221, which in the end proved to be enough.

SCOREBOARD

DELHI CAPITALS

Jake Fraser-McGurk c Ferreira b Ashwin 50 *(20b, 7x4, 3x6)*, Abishek Porel c Sandeep b Ashwin 65 *(36b, 7x4, 3x6)*, Shai Hope run out 1 *(1b)*, Axar Patel c Parag b Ashwin 15 *(10b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Rishabh Pant c Boult b Chahal 15 *(13b, 1x6)*, Tristan Stubbs lbw b Sandeep 41 *(20b, 3x4, 3x6)*, Gulbadin Naib c Ashwin b Boult 19 *(15b,1x4, 1x6)*, Rasikh Salam **(Impact Player in place of Porel)** run out 9 *(3b, 2x4)*, Kuldeep Yadav (not out) 5 *(2b, 1x4)*; Extras (w-1): 1; Total (for eight wickets in 20 overs): 221

FALL OF WICKETS

1-60 (Fraser-McGurk, 4.2 overs), 2-68 (Hope, 5.1), 3-110 (Axar, 9.2), 4-144 (Porel, 12.4), 5-150 (Pant, 13.5), 6-195 (Naib, 18.4), 7-215 (Stubbs, 19.3), 8-221 (Rasikh, 19.6)

RAJASTHAN ROYALS BOWLING

Boult 4-0-48-1, Sandeep 4-0-42-1, Avesh 2-0-42-0, Ashwin 4-0-24-3, Parag 2-0-17-0, Chahal 4-0-48-1.

RAJASTHAN ROYALS

Yashasvi Jaiswal c Axar b Khaleel 4 *(2b, 1x4)*, Jos Buttler **(Impact Player in place of Chahal)** b Axar 19 *(17b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Sanju Samson c Hope b Mukesh 86 *(46b, 8x4, 6x6)*, Riyan Parag b Rasikh 27 *(22b, 1x4, 3x6)*, Shubham Dubey c Stubbs b Khaleel 25 *(12b, 2x4, 2x6)*, Rovman Powell b Mukesh 13 *(10b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Donovan Ferreira lbw b Kuldeep 1 *(3b)*, R. Ashwin c Hope b Kuldeep 2 *(3b)*, Trent Boult (not out) 2 *(3b)*, Avesh Khan (not out) 7 *(3b, 1x4)*; Extras (lb-4, nb-1, w-10): 15; Total (for eight wkts. in 20 overs): 201.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-4 (Jaiswal, 0.2), 2-67 (Buttler, 5.5), 3-103 (Parag, 10.6), 4-162 (Samson, 15.4), 5-180 (Dubey, 16.4), 6-181 (Ferreira, 17.1), 7-185 (Ashwin, 17.6), 8-194 (Powell, 19.2).

CAPITALS BOWLING

Khaleel 4-0-47-2, Ishant 3-0-34-0, Mukesh 3-0-30-2, Axar 3-0-25-1, Kuldeep 4-0-25-2, Rasikh 3-0-36-1.

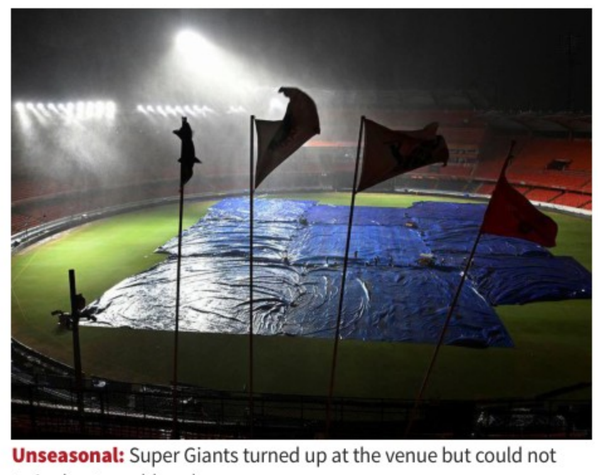
Toss: Rajasthan Royals
PoM: Kuldeep Yadav
Delhic Capitals won by 20 runs

Next assignment

RR: May 12 vs **CSK**
Chennai, 3.30 p.m.

DC: May 12 vs **RCB**
Bengaluru, 7.30 p.m.

Familiar conditions give SRH edge over LSG



Unseasonal: Super Giants turned up at the venue but could not train due to sudden showers. M. VEDHAN

V.V. Subrahmanyam
HYDERABAD

It could be termed as a contest between equals between Sunrisers Hyderabad and Lucknow Super Giants, both with 12 points each from 11 games, when the two teams clash in the IPL league match. However the home team has an edge playing in familiar conditions and what is expected to be another perfect T20 pitch at the Rajiv Gandhi Stadium here on Thursday.

It is a must-win game for both the sides as any loss here at this stage would only dent further the hopes of making it to the play-offs.

Both the teams have three games to make amends and in quick time too.

For Sunrisers, the loss against Mumbai Indians was a wake-up call with the batters struggling on a pitch which was helpful to the bowlers. With the exception of a lucky Travis Head at the top and a belligerent captain Pat Cummins down the order, the others were not up to the task.

The conditions here are expected to be different and far more easier for Sunrisers to provide freedom to the free-stroking batters. It would be interesting to see whether Sunrisers pick the big-hitting New Zealand all-rounder Glen Phillips, who has been mostly confined to the dug-out this season.

For Super Giants, which will be playing last three away games, captain and opener K.L. Rahul needs to lead by example to inspire his team and rediscover the winning touch.

Dark clouds and sharp drizzle forced cancellation of the practice session of Lucknow which turned up at the venue this evening, while Sunrisers had no training schedule.

Today's match

Hyderabad, 7.30 p.m.

HEAD-TO-HEAD
PLAYED: 3
SRH 0 | LSG 3

PREVIOUS MEETING
LSG won by seven wickets, 2023

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 (SD & HD) & JIO CINEMA

Focus is on winning, no talk around NRR, says LSG's Sriram

V.V. Subrahmanyam
HYDERABAD

Lucknow Super Giants assistant coach Sridharan Sriram said the side is hoping for a full game against Sunrisers Hyderabad.

After heavy rain forced cancellation of his team's training schedule, Sriram talked about Tuesday's crucial encounter.

"I think in general, spinners have had a tough time in this tournament. Wickets have been so good and the scores have been high," he said.

"But, I think given our spinners, Bishnoi has bowled really well in the last couple of games. Krunal has been very good throughout, so I think we don't have really reasons to worry about it. I think these things happen in the IPL," Sriram said.

When asked if there is added pressure in the business end of the tournament, Sriram said: "Just learn and move on. Pressure is the same for everyone. It is how we deal with it on the given day."

"I think we have got to focus on winning. Net Run Rate will take care of itself if we win. I don't think there has been any talk around the Net Run Rate. It is about how we beat the opposition and that is what matters on a given day."

"Mayank is a superb talent. I think every team would love to have someone like him who can come and bowl at that pace and get wickets through the middle. It is obviously disappointing that he hasn't played for us. And all the games he has played, we have won," he said.

Points table

	M	W	L	PTS	NRR
Kolkata Knight Riders	11	8	3	16	1.453
Rajasthan Royals	11	8	3	16	0.476
Chennai Super Kings	11	6	5	12	0.700
Sunrisers Hyderabad	11	6	5	12	-0.065
Delhi Capitals	12	6	6	12	-0.316
Lucknow Super Giants	11	6	5	12	-0.371
Royal Challengers	11	4	7	8	-0.049
Punjab Kings	11	4	7	8	-0.187
Mumbai Indians	12	4	8	8	-0.212
Gujarat Titans	11	4	7	8	-1.320

Home advantage? Not quite for Punjab Kings

Shayan Acharya
DHARAMSHALA

Punjab Kings travelled to its second home base in Dharamshala with great expectations. Having defeated Chennai Super Kings in its den and bringing its campaign back on track, the Sam Curran-led side hoped to build on the momentum.

But a 28-run defeat in the reverse fixture at the HPCA Stadium on Sunday means Punjab Kings no longer has its fate in its own hands. Though on paper, it can still qualify for the last-four stage, in all practicality, it needs a miracle and lots of luck.

While injury issues – including that of captain Shikhar Dhawan – proved detrimental to the team's progress, the fact that it lost five of its six home games so far is also one of the major reasons behind the debacle.

Moving on from the PCA Stadium in Mohali, the Punjab Kings played its five matches in Mullanpur this season and lost on four occasions. And it's campaign in Dharamshala, too, began on a disappointing note, even though the side hopes to bounce back in its last home match against Royal Challengers Bengaluru on Thursday.

Rarity: Such celebrations have been few and far between for Punjab Kings on its home turf. R.V. MOORTHY

"It's disappointing on a number of levels," Brad Haddin, Punjab Kings' assistant coach, told *The Hindu*. "It was a new home ground and the crowd was outstanding, but it was also a learning experience in terms of what the wicket did. As we look back, we lost three games in the last couple of balls, and it was disappointing to lose because you bank on your home ground to make it a fortress..."

Before moving to Mullanpur, Punjab Kings featured in 61 home fixtures at the PCA Stadium since 2008, of which it won 31 games. However, it's track record in Dharamshala is poor as it lost seven of its 12 games since 2010.

Why did the team fail to take home advantage?

"We just probably did not react fast to the situations in the match," Haddin said, adding: "T20 games are won on winning big moments, but identifying those moments are also important and we probably didn't do that..."

INBRIEF

Wilson holds his nerve to win World snooker final

Kyren Wilson just about held his nerve on Monday as he overcame an impressive fightback from qualifier Zak Jones to win snooker's World championship title for the first time. Wilson eventually triumphed 18-14 in the final at Sheffield but only after Jones, who lost the first seven frames of the best of 35 contest, had won three in a row from 17-11 down to give himself hope of a remarkable rally. But in the end, the 12th-ranked Englishman regained his composure to see off his Welsh opponent.

Rutuja-Paige duo enters the quarterfinals in Fukuoka

Rutuja Bhosale and Paige Hourigan defeated Mananchaya Sawangkaew and Eri Shimizu 6-4, 6-3 in the doubles pre-quarterfinals of the $60,000 ITF women's tennis tournament in Fukuoka (Japan) on Tuesday.

The results: First round: $15,000 ITF men, Monastir: Karan Singh bt Samir Reguig (Alg) 6-1, 7-5.
Doubles, pre-quarterfinals: $60,000 ITF women, Fukuoka: Rutuja Bhosale & Paige Hourigan (NZ) bt Mananchaya Sawangkaew (Tha) & Eri Shimizu (Jpn) 6-4, 6-3.
$25,000 ITF women, Platja D'Aro, Spain: Celia Sanchez & Charo Banuls (Esp) bt Sharmada Balu & Sowjanya Bavisetti 7-6(5), 6-1.
$15,000 ITF women, Kursumlijska Banja, Serbia: Mila Masic & Nikol Palecek (Srb) bt Prathyusha Rachapudi & Lucia Tognoni (Ita) 6-2, 6-1.

Bangladesh seals T20I series against Zimbabwe

Bangladesh survived a late onslaught from Faraz Akram to defeat Zimbabwe by nine runs in the third T20I and seal the five-match series 3-0 in Chittagong on Tuesday.

The scores: Bangladesh 165/5 in 20 overs (Towhid Hridoy 57, Jaker Ali 44, B. Muzarabani 3/14) bt Zimbabwe 156/9 in 20 overs (F. Akram 34 n.o., T. Marumani 31, Mohammad Saifuddin 3/42). *Bangladesh won by nine runs, leads five-match series 3-0.*

LIVE TELECAST

IPL: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & JioCinema, 7.30 p.m.
Champions League: Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 12.30 a.m. (Thursday)

Manchester United's season goes from bad to worse

Red Devils at risk of failing to qualify for Europe next season after Crystal Palace hammers them; the Manchester based club has been absent only once since 1989-90

EURO LEAGUES

Agence France-Presse
LONDON

Thunderbolt: Crystal Palace's Olise fires in the final nail in United's coffin. GETTY IMAGES

Manchester United is at risk of failing to qualify for Europe next season after a dismal 4-0 thrashing at Crystal Palace left the Red Devils eighth in the Premier League.

Michael Olise scored twice, either side of goals from the in-form Jean-Philippe Mateta and Tyrick Mitchell, as the Eagles' resurgence since the appointment of Oliver Glasner as manager continues.

The time for a change of boss at Old Trafford could be coming soon as Erik ten Hag fails to arrest a slide in his second season in charge.

United has only been absent from European competition once since the 1989-90 season.

That came after finishing seventh in David Moyes' sole campaign 10 years ago and the Scot was sacked with four games of the season to go.

United has never come lower than seventh in the Premier League era but is staring that possibility in the face with title-chasing Arsenal to come at Old Trafford on Sunday.

Ten Hag has routinely cited injury problems as mitigation for his side's struggles.

The Dutchman was forced to cobble together a makeshift backline as Casemiro deputised out of position at centre-back, alongside 36-year-old Jonny Evans.

Captain Bruno Fernandes was also absent as his proud record of never missing a club game in his career due to injury came to an end.

But there was little excuse for the lack of fight or quality on show from a United side, whose sole Premier League win in its last seven games came against relegated Sheffield United.

Palace is unbeaten in its last five as former Eintracht Frankfurt boss Glasner's project takes shape.

The results:
Premier League: Crystal Palace 4 (Olise 12, 66, Mateta 40, Mitchell 58) bt Manchester United 0.
Serie A: Salernitana 1 (Tchaouna 18) lost to Atalanta 2 (Scamacca 57, Koopmeiners 63); Udinese 1 (Success 90+2) drew with Napoli 1 (Osimhen 51).

Go to man: Kane, second from right, will once again be in focus as Bayern attempts to salvage its season. AFP

Bayern banking on Kane against Real

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Agence France-Presse
BERLIN

Six-time Champions League winner Bayern Munich heads into Wednesday's second semifinal at Real Madrid ever more reliant on striker Harry Kane amid swirling off-field crises entirely of its own making.

Bayern drew 2-2 at home against Real in the first leg and needs a win to progress.

But while the club and its hierarchy continues to suffer from self-inflicted wounds on and off the pitch, Kane is reliably carrying it to within touching distance of a Wembley return and a possible seventh crown.

He now has 44 goals in 44 games in all competitions, officially his best return in a season.

Meanwhile, Real Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti is searching for the formula to take his team's performance up several notches to get past Bayern.

To reach the final Ancelotti must find a way to restrain Bayern's wingers Leroy Sane and Jamal Musiala, who caused Madrid a constant headache in the first leg.

Dani Carvajal will return from suspension at right-back to try and shackle Musiala.

Match starts at 12.30 a.m. (Thursday).

Bengal and Haryana post similar wins

HOCKEY

Press Trust of India
RANCHI

Bengal and Haryana registered identical victories by margins of 2-1 over Odisha and Maharashtra respectively in the National Women's Hockey League 2024 here on Tuesday.

Bengal showed relentless attacking prowess and swift passing throughout the game. Haryana dominated possession from the start in the other match.

The results: Bengal 2 (Shanti Horo 23 & 39) bt Odisha 1 (Dipi Monika Toppo 51); Haryana 2 (Manju Chorsiya 12, Pooja 37) bt Maharashtra 1 (Sukanya Dhaware 55).

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Adhrit's double ton sets up Bangalore United's big win

Adhrit Rao (240) powered Bangalore United past Eleven Brothers in the KSCA under-16 inter-club tournament here.

The scores:
Bangalore United (1) 456/7 in 50 overs (Adhrit Rao 240, Aarav Adiga 29, Aditya Singh 45, Aaron Minj 34, Arnav Kothari 26, Noojibail Bhat 3/70) bt Eleven Brothers 94 in 28 overs (Nischal Tuppada 32, Aryansh Singh 6/4).
Swastic Union (2) 272/5 in 50 overs (Arya Gowda 54, R. Nithin 41, J. Sukruth 59, K. Akhil 47 n.o., Aditya Umadi 26) bt Jawans 101 in 23.5 overs (Samarth Jadhav 28 n.o., Arun Mishra 33, Khush Kothari 5/16).
City Gymkhana 227/6 in 50 overs (Vishnu Reddy 52, Arnav Manchale 42, J.C. Karkera 56) bt Visweswarapuram (1) 148 in 39 overs (Ahan Mavinkure 50, Akilan Sivakumar 25, Swayam Shabadi 3/16).

One for the album: Kaashvi won the girls' title in the AITA under-10 tennis tournament here. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Chintamani SA 210 in 49.3 overs (D.R. Pranav 40, Krish Chordia 30, Jnana Prabhu 55, Anuj Sah 3/37) lost to Malleswaram Gymkhana 261/8 in 45.5 overs (Javed Eroor 44, Mohammed Ishaan 26, Radhesh Nair 54, Daksh Patel 45, Sanjay Kumar 3/28).
Cavaliers 164 in 47.4 overs (Tanish Yadav 47, Shaurya Tandon 30, Amogh Hegde 34, B.R. Rathan 4/24) lost to Young Lions Club 166/7 in 35.2 overs (Karan Raghavendra 38, M. Rohith 44, R. Shivaraj 45 n.o., Dhruvesh 5/38).
Wadiyar 355/8 in 50 overs (Nidhish Chollangi 55, S.B. Pranay 121, Vishwas Goud 33, R. Veeresh 37) bt Gandhinagar Cricketers 61 in 11.4 overs (Sekhon Singh 5/19).
Social Cricketers 107 in 43.3 overs (Yogesh Chavan 3/30, Anand Ramesh 3/8) lost to Bangalore SC 108/3 in 18.0 overs (G. Aravind 48 n.o, Tanshh Krishna 28).
Jupiter CA 206 in 47 overs (Agastya Khashu 60, Hritvik Mishra 35, Mitran Nandakumar 59 n.o., Aadarsh Chhapekar 3/25, Nihal Malik 3/47) bt Engrades 155 in 34.5 overs (Pruthvi Raj 29, Rochan 61, Neev Bhattacharjee 3/27, Arnav Kundap 5/42).
RVCE Gymkhana 97 in 26.1 overs (Amogh Harsha 3/12, Sreearjun Balusu 3/11) lost to Herons 98/2 in 17 overs (Jayan Samyog 37 n.o., Emon Bhanj 34).
Vultures 480/5 in 50 overs (Raj Aryan 52, N.P. Vivek 99, S.P. Banesh 53, Vedaraj Yadav 117, Harshvardhan Nishikanth 69, B. Romith 28 n.o., Krushna Rao 34 n.o.) bt Karnataka Youth CA 135 in 34.2 overs (Siddhant Nigam 26, Krushna Rao 6/27).
South End SC 165 in 42.4 overs (Aachman Avasthi 26, Harikrishna Bhat 32, Sharvil Naik 27) lost to The Bangalore Cricketers 169/6 in 29.5 overs (A. Rishik 35, H. Adithya 33 n.o., Preetham Pillai 3/35).

Kanish nets Sun Rise FC's winner

N.S. Kanish's goal helped Sun Rise FC defeat Bangalore Muslims 1-0 in the BDFA C-division men's football league here.

The results: Sun Rise FC 1 (N.S. Kanish 25) bt Bangalore Muslims FC 0; Southern Blues FC 1 (S. Vijaya 57) bt Navaratna FC 0; Hampinagar FC 4 (Akash Tigga 10, Hardeep Singh 14, Rohit 27, Shivam 30) bt Ambedkar FC 0.

Sanjith stars in Cricket Beyond's win

Sanjit Sathish's 134 took Cricket Beyond Technique past Just Cricket in the Tiger Cup under-14 tournament here.

The scores:
CBT 314/4 in 30 overs (Sanjit Sathish 134, Trishaan Sethi 53, Hrithik Polin 52, Ramnath Nayak 35) bt Just Cricket 156/6 in 30 overs (Deep Mittra 47, Milind Akash 49).
School of Cricket 147 in 27.3 overs (Arnav Gupta 43, Adhyay Rathi 25, Hari Krishna 3/19, M.R. Lochan 3/23) bt RCA (Mysore) 128 in 25.4 overs (Shamanth Rao 30, Arav Vijay 4/16, Kahaan Halani 3/30).
Muthoot Cricket Academy 113 in 24.4 overs (A. Agathiyan 29, P. Yateesh 3/25) bt Gopalan 115/2 in 17.5 overs (Ahan Udupi 62).
PESIT 233/4 in 30 overs (Aaryansinh Chavda 160) bt RXCA 102 in 21.5 overs (Rajveer 28, Niyanta Kulkarni 3/16).

Scott Flemming. FILE PHOTO

Flemming is Indian men's basketball coach

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

The Basketball Federation of India (BFI) on Tuesday announced that it has appointed American Scott Flemming as the new head coach of the Indian men's basketball team.

This will be his second stint in the role after previously coaching the team from 2012-2015. During his tenure, Flemming led the team to a gold medal at the 2014 Lusofonia Games.

BFI secretary Kulvinder Singh Gill in a media release said, "With his past experience and coaching abilities, we are confident that Mr. Flemming's appointment will help improve the performance of our Indian senior men basketball team."

Definitions depend on format of the game

BETWEEN WICKETS
Suresh Menon

When India won their first World Cup – in the longer white ball format – in 1983, their heroes were the so-called "bits-and-pieces" cricketers. That was an almost-derisive term for players who could bat a bit and bowl a bit but may not have found a place in the (Test) team for their batting or bowling alone. Only skipper Kapil Dev was considered a genuine all-rounder.

This was because it wasn't understood that the definition of 'all-rounder' depended on the format being played.

It was only in hindsight that experts realised players like Mohinder Amarnath, Roger Binny, Kirti Azad, Sandeep Patil, Madan Lal deserved to be called all-rounders because each was capable of bowling their full quota of overs and all of them could threaten as batters in any slot. One-Day Internationals were just over decade old then and hadn't yet attained the sophistication it would later in terms of strategy and tactics.

Thus, if a player can bowl his full quota of four overs consistently and strike a significant number of sixes, he is an all-rounder in T20 regardless of how he is classified in the other two formats.

Shivam Dube is a T20 all-rounder, as is Washington Sunder. Neither got to bowl much in the IPL because of the Impact Substitute rule which is a good way to destroy all-rounders. There will be no such rule at the World Cup which means that India may have cut themselves off at the knees before the tournament. No attempt was made to groom all-rounders ahead of the World Cup.

IPL teams don't see the need to develop all-rounders because they can substitute a batter for a bowler or vice versa. The essential difference between an IPL match and an India international – obvious, but still needs stating – is that an IPL franchise aims to win for the greater glory of the private owners while an Indian team, the responsibility of the Board of Control for Cricket in India, needs to focus on development of players both to win matches and to prepare for the future.

Even skipper Rohit Sharma has criticised the Impact Player rule, a tribute to the rule-makers' (and television's) belief that a match is only about hitting sixes and that's all the spectators (and viewers) want.

But inadvertently the administrators may have stumbled upon what distinguishes T20 from the 50-over game. Perhaps T20 is currently a game of specialists while the 50-over game can accommodate the so-called bits-and-pieces players to give the captain more choices.

Specific role

There is no hiding place in T20. Each player has specific duties; responsibilities do not overlap. The format is moving closer to football where the responsibilities (and skills, obviously) of the defender are different from those of the midfielder who has a different role to play compared to the striker.

In the days before 'Total football', where players swapped roles mid-stream, the jersey numbers of the players told us what role they played. No. 1 was the goalkeeper, and 11 the outside left, to use ancient nomenclature.

In T20 each batting slot comes with a specific role. It is possible you might confuse a No.3 batter if you ask him to bat at No.7. He might not be prepared for that role. So 'Total cricket', the possible next step in the evolution of the format is some way off. It was tried to some extent by Greg Chappell with India's 50-over team, but copped much criticism.

India's greatest challenge at the World Cup will be fitting the right player into the right slot. Hardik Pandya is crucial to the balance if he bowls his quota in every match. Particularly since none of the first four batters (unless Dube bats at four) is expected to bowl. This has been a weakness of the Indian team in recent years.

Both in 1983 and in 2007 (inaugural T20 World Cup), India were surprise winners, having gone into these tournaments without much hope or much planning. Since then, the IPL has provided the platform for new ideas and regular innovation. But 17 years is a long time to wait for a repeat in T20, especially for a team which is often (as now) the top ranked in the format.

Indians capture seven more gold medals

Golden girls: Preeti (54kg), Poonam (57kg), Prachi (63kg), Muskan (75kg). INSTAGRAM/ASBC_OFFICIAL

BOXING

Sports Bureau

Seven Indian boxers including Olympics-bound Preeti clinched gold in the Under-22 category on the final day of action at the ASBC Asian Under-22 and Youth Boxing Championships in Astana on Tuesday.

India finished second in the medal table with 43 medals, including 12 gold and 14 silver, behind host Kazakhstan, which claimed 48 medals.

Reigning youth World champion Vishvanath Suresh started the gold rush on the final day with a 5-0 win against local favourite Karap Yernar in the 48kg category.

Triumphant trio: Vishvanath (48kg), Nikhil (57kg), and Akash (60kg). INSTAGRAM/ASBC_OFFICIAL

Nikhil (57kg) beat Sabyr Yerbolat of Kazakhstan with a Referee Stops Contest and Akash Gorkha (60kg) won 4-1 against Kazakhstan's Ruslan Kuzeubayev.

Among the women, Preeti (54kg) struggled early on and lost the first round before recovering to clinch the next two to defeat Kazakhstan's Bazarova Elina. Poonam Poonia (57kg) and Prachi (63kg) won with identical 4-1 scorelines before Muskan (75kg) won a tough outing against Uzbekistan's Zokirova Aziza with a 3-2 split decision verdict.

Preet Malik (67kg), Guddi (48kg), Tamanna (50kg), Saneh (70kg) and Alfiya Pathan (81kg) finished with silver medals.